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Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Draft text of an international development strategy for the first decade of the new millennium

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 4 of its resolution 54/206, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with all concerned organs and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Committee for Development Policy, to submit to it for consideration at its fifty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a draft international development strategy for the first decade of the new millennium, with the aim of giving further impetus to international cooperation for development, and of monitoring long-term trends in the global economy as well as the attainment of internationally agreed targets. The present report is submitted in response to that request.

2. As requested, the draft strategy contained in the present report draws on inputs from many parts of the United Nations system and, as called for in paragraph 4 (a) of Assembly resolution 54/206, builds on the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and their five-year review processes, the Agenda for Development and the results of other intergovernmental deliberations. This has resulted in an extensive text, but many of the proposals contained in the draft strategy, even those in diverse areas, are complementary and mutually reinforcing (e.g., higher economic growth, improvements in health and education and reductions in gender inequality).

3. The draft strategy focuses on goals and desirable policy measures and actions. Several quantifiable goals were set by the major conferences for the year 2015 and these have been retained as such, although corresponding goals could be derived for 2010. The draft strategy does not indicate relative priorities or the sequencing of the goals; national Governments should establish their own priorities in the light of the international priorities established by all Governments collectively. Equally, the draft does not specify procedures for implementation; these should be considered as the strategy is elaborated further but, in large measure, they would be the same as for the implementation of the outcomes of the conferences themselves.

4. In considering this matter, the Committee for Development Policy indicated that any new strategy should be based on an assessment of the implementation of prior strategies. As called for in paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 54/206, the Secretary-General will submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session an update of the 1999 report on the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

II. The setting and major challenges

A. Development and peace

5. The previous international development strategy was prepared in the immediate aftermath of the cold war, with the prospect of a so-called "peace dividend" that would offer an array of new opportunities. There has been a relaxation of tensions between the superpowers and the resulting decline in military expenditures has provided them with that peace dividend. In an increasing number of other countries, however, there has been a proliferation of conflict. In particular, economic deprivation and social and political exclusion have given rise to conflicts within countries that have ranged from civil disorder to terrorism to civil war, resulting in a substantial loss of life and large population displacements, as well as damage to physical assets. In such conflicts, the human suffering has been immense and development has been not only halted but reversed.

6. Because of that proliferation of conflicts in the 1990s, there are a large number of post-conflict situations at the beginning of the present decade, which pose a particular challenge because of the need simultaneously to prevent the recurrence of conflict, to rebuild societies and to undertake rehabilitation and reconstruction, as well as to promote development.

B. Eradicating poverty and hunger

7. Extreme poverty continued to afflict some 1.2 billion people (over one fifth of the world's population) in the late 1990s; almost 800 million people were chronically undernourished during 1995-1997. Those numbers fell very little in many countries in the 1990s; in some countries, the proportion of undernourished people increased. That situation, after several decades of development effort, is a continuing embarrassment to the world community at a time when economic growth has brought large increases in income to many countries, including some developing countries. The

challenge is to ensure that all individuals everywhere are able to enjoy an acceptable level of well-being.

C. Globalization and technological change

8. Globalization in its various forms has yielded profound benefits to many countries and individuals. Recent years have demonstrated, however, that countries and individuals not in a position to reap its benefits not only may fail to gain from globalization but may have their progress reversed by it. The consequence is that globalization has tended to exacerbate economic inequality in the world, both among countries and among individuals within countries. A major challenge for the new decade will be to ensure that the adverse effects of globalization are remedied and its benefits more equitably distributed.

9. Globalization has been advanced not only by the actions of Governments but also by technical progress, notably in the areas of transport and communications. At the same time, the increased competition brought about by globalization has been one of the factors stimulating research and development in the private sector. The turn of the century has been a period of unusually rapid technical progress, most notably in computers and telecommunications but also in biotechnology. Those advances offer an opportunity to accelerate development in the developing and transition economies, but a major effort will be required to seize the opportunity to ensure that the new technologies do not further widen the gap between the richest and poorest countries and peoples.

D. Ensuring sustainable development

10. The continuing growth in the production of material goods is placing increasing stress on many aspects of the physical environment, especially the supplies of fresh water, forests, fisheries and fertile soil, and on the composition of the global atmosphere. Maintaining these supplies on a sustainable basis is vital for the economic and social development of the world's growing population. Unsustainable consumption and production patterns, particularly in developed countries, are the main cause of the deterioration of the global environment. Developed countries should take the lead in promoting sustainable consumption patterns. In pursuing their growth and development, developing countries should endeavour to bypass the unsustainable production and consumption patterns of the developed countries.

11. A number of environmental challenges require particular attention. Almost one fifth of all people do not have access to safe drinking water and more than two fifths lack access to sanitation. The management, conservation and sustainable development of forests, fisheries and agricultural land are crucial in maintaining the Earth's life-support system and supporting social and economic development. Sustainable energy production and use is crucial to environmental protection, reducing health hazards, preventing global warming and improving the quality of life.

E. Democracy, governance, the rule of law and human rights

12. Development, democracy and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Democracy and good governance are important for economic and social development as well as desirable goals in their own right. Efforts to promote democracy and good governance are also fundamental to the consolidation of peace and development. Good governance comprises the rule of law, effective State institutions, transparency and accountability in the management of public affairs, respect for human rights and the participation of all citizens in the decisions that affect their lives.

F. Promoting gender equality and the participation of women in development

13. Inequalities between women and men persist in most dimensions of development, albeit to varying degrees across issues and among countries. Partly because of these inequalities, the creativity and potential contribution of women to development are often underestimated and usually underused. A fundamental challenge will be to make women's concerns an integral element of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all political, economic, social and cultural programmes and policies so that the gender dimension becomes an integral part of all development activities rather than a separate and additional element. That approach should be adopted throughout the present strategy, with careful attention given to the gender

dimension of each of the goals, policies and measures that are adopted.

G. Addressing critical situations

14. Despite intensified national efforts and international cooperation to address their problems, Africa and the least developed countries continue to present a major development challenge. The conference on least developed countries to be held in 2001 will provide an opportunity to identify the shortcomings of the past and, more importantly, to rededicate efforts to resolving the problems faced by the least developed countries and their peoples.

15. Particularly in an era when globalization and interdependence are driving forces for development, the difficulties faced by landlocked developing countries are an impediment to their development. Similarly, because they are ecologically fragile and economically vulnerable, small island developing States face particular constraints in their efforts to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Special attention will need to be given to those two groups of countries.

H. International and national policy environment

16. The events, experiences and policy actions of the 1990s laid some important foundations for development in the first decade of the new century.

17. There is greater harmony and convergence of views on many development issues at both the national and international levels. Politically, there has been a trend towards democratization and greater popular participation in decision-making processes. Economically, the trend has been towards market-oriented systems and a more carefully defined role for the State. There is universal recognition that countries are responsible for their own development, but also a recognition that the international community has an obligation to foster an international economic environment that supports those national efforts.

18. On balance, the international environment in the 1990s was more propitious than in the 1980s. The completion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) were important steps forward, although the benefits to many developing countries were less than many hoped. There was a large increase in financial flows to a subset of developing countries, but there were also a number of financial shocks that had damaging effects on development in many countries. There was also a downward trend in the development assistance efforts of many of the developed countries, the consequences of which were felt mostly by the poorest countries.

19. Focusing on the non-economic dimensions, the global United Nations conferences of the past decade have contributed to forging a new consensus on the nature of development. They have broadened the concept of development and made progress towards universal values in such areas as sustainable development, social development, human rights, culture, children and gender. As reflected in the present strategy, one of the tasks for the coming decade will be to ensure that the goals set by those conferences as a reflection of these values are fulfilled.

20. Most nations have made greater headway in development during the past 10 years than they did in the "lost decade" of the 1980s. A few countries demonstrated that substantial progress can be made even in such a relatively short period. For the majority, however, the pace of advance has been insufficient to make a meaningful impact on the overall level of well-being, while others, mostly those who were already among the most disadvantaged, have failed to make any progress at all or have even lost ground.

21. The 1990s have left a legacy of important building blocks that should enhance development prospects. In addition to the conclusions drawn by the global conferences, there has been significant progress in economic management, with notable success in many developing and transition economies in reducing inflation, correcting fiscal deficits, achieving sustainable current account deficits and improving efficiency at the sectoral level. In addition, widespread attention has been given to "lessons learned" and the establishment of "good practices" in various areas. The challenge is to ensure that those good practices are adopted, consolidated and universalized.

22. In an era of unprecedented change, it is not possible to foresee the next decade any more accurately than it was to anticipate the situation today in 1990. A final challenge must therefore be to ensure that the

international community, individual countries and others responsible for implementing the new strategy have the flexibility necessary to adjust their goals and actions as quickly as the rapidly changing world requires.

III. Goals, policies and implementation measures

A. Consolidating peace

23. Development is difficult, if not impossible, in a situation of war or conflict. The Governments involved, supported as necessary by the international community, should resolve all outstanding conflicts in a peaceful manner as soon as possible so that the development of their countries can proceed and the lives of their peoples improved.

24. Socio-economic factors are important root causes and triggers for many conflicts. Both as goals in their own right and to prevent the eruption of conflict, development strategies should seek to achieve an equitable distribution of the benefits from a country's wealth and from its economic growth. Similarly, Governments should ensure that all groups within society have equal access to opportunities for economic advancement and that the benefits of government expenditure, the burden of taxation and the costs of any shock to the national economy are equitably distributed.

B. Eradicating poverty and hunger

25. All countries, individually and collectively, should adopt the goal of halving by 2015 the proportion of people living in extreme poverty (defined as those whose income is less than $1 per day). Each country should formulate strategies to eradicate extreme poverty by a date to be specified by each country in its national context, and should commit itself to national policies and programmes directed specifically to that end and developed and applied in consultation with civil society.

26. As part of the effort to achieve that overall goal, countries should pursue the additional poverty-related goals established by the World Summit for Social Development, namely:

(a) To address the root causes of poverty and to provide for the basic needs of all;

(b) To ensure that people living in poverty have access to productive resources as well as to public services and participate in decision-making so as to enable them to benefit from employment and economic opportunities;

(c) To ensure that all people have adequate economic and social protection during unemployment, ill health, maternity, child-rearing, widowhood, disability and old age;

(d) To ensure that national budgets and policies are oriented, as necessary, to meeting basic needs, reducing inequalities and targeting poverty;

(e) To reduce inequalities, increase opportunities and access to resources and income, and remove any political, legal, economic and social factors and constraints that foster and sustain inequality;

(f) To ensure that the international community, particularly the multilateral financial institutions, assist all countries in need in their efforts to eradicate poverty, provide basic social protection and achieve people-centred sustainable development;

(g) To focus on and support the special needs of countries and regions in which there are substantial concentrations of people living in poverty, in particular in South Asia and Africa.

27. Hunger is a symptom and a cause of poverty. Hunger and other nutritional deficiencies limit people's productivity and learning, make them susceptible to disease and thus keep them poor because those who are hungry and poor are marginalized. Good nutrition is fundamental to overall human welfare and should be a goal in its own right as well as a means for other aspects of development.

28. All countries should implement international and national commitments undertaken to achieve food security for all and should seek to achieve the goal set by the World Food Summit in 1996 to reduce the number of undernourished people by half by 2015. The World Food Summit Plan of Action seeks to reduce poverty and hunger through targeting the poorest people in the neediest countries, where agriculture is the main source of income and employment of the poor.

29. National efforts and international assistance should be such as to enable the poor to benefit from mainstream development programmes and should ensure the participation of the most disadvantaged groups, such as women, children and indigenous populations. In formulating and implementing policies to reduce poverty and hunger, women should be made part of the solution and not just beneficiaries of assistance programmes. Actions should be taken to develop poor women's capacities through education, training and access to income-generating opportunities. Special attention should be given to the needs of female heads of households, who make up a disproportionately large share of the world's poor.

C. Economic development

1. Economic growth

30. Few developing countries will be able to reduce poverty and hunger or achieve many of the other goals of the present strategy unless they sustain a higher rate of economic growth than during the past two decades. A sustained increase of at least 3 per cent per annum in per capita output will be necessary in most cases to achieve a meaningful reduction in poverty. For the lowest income countries, a substantially faster rate of growth will be required.

31. Economic growth alone will not be sufficient either to reduce poverty or to achieve many of the strategy's other goals, particularly those pertaining to equity, the human condition and the sustainability of the development process. However, higher growth will provide increased resources and greater scope for change, both of which should be used to address these other priorities.

2. Domestic and international economic policies

Domestic economic and financial environment

32. Since the overwhelming share of investment in all countries is financed by domestic savings, countries themselves have the primary responsibility for the mobilization of domestic public and private resources for their investment. To that end, they need an enabling domestic economic and financial environment, which requires a sound financial system, appropriate macroeconomic policies, a clear legal and regulatory framework (including fair and strong enforcement), transparency and accountability of public and private institutions, and a stable political environment.

33. Governments need to pay close attention to the functioning and development of the financial system. In addition to enhancing financial stability, sound financial sector development can increase financing opportunities for investment and thereby raise the efficiency of the allocation of financial resources, as well as improving equity of access to financing.

34. Adequate public revenues are essential for necessary public expenditures. Governments thus need effective and equitable tax systems. Tax systems should aim to mobilize revenue in a transparent and equitable manner, keeping administrative costs low and minimizing the distortion of price signals in the economy. Such measures include broadening the tax base, for example by shifting emphasis from taxes on trade to income and/or value-added taxes, simplifying the tax code, reducing excessively burdensome tax rates and improving the effectiveness of tax collection. The capacity of Governments to implement such measures is critical to their success.

35. The allocation of public expenditure should place high priority on areas that promote sustainable economic and social development, including gender equality, while reducing poverty, such as efficient and effective investment in physical infrastructure, human development and capacity-building.

International environment for trade and financial flows

36. The international community should take all possible measures to create and maintain an enabling international environment for the promotion of global economic development, in particular the development of the developing and transition economies. To that end, international surveillance should seek to promote, *inter alia*, an effective international environment for resource transfers for development through private financial flows and international trade. All countries, in particular the major industrialized countries, should aim in their policy-making at accelerated, sustainable growth of output, trade and financial flows in a context of international financial stability.

37. Developed countries, in particular the major industrialized countries, should take into account the effects of their macroeconomic policies on the growth

and development of developing and transition economies, and should enhance the coherence of their sectoral, trade and tax policies with the aims of their development cooperation. They should foster, through banking and capital-market policy, the international transfer of long-term financial resources to an increasing number of developing and transition economies and for a widening range of investment activities.

38. The benefits of the globalization of finance should be extended to all nations and peoples, in particular to developing countries, especially the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition. The international community should thus pursue national and international efforts to strengthen the international financial system and to make it more responsive to the challenges of development. The decision-making process for international cooperation in monetary and financial matters needs to reflect equitably the roles and responsibilities of all countries in order to promote the efficient and effective operation of international financial institutions and arrangements. In addition, the international community needs to consider the further design and development of international processes to strengthen the coherence and consistency of international monetary, financial and trade policies in support of development, mindful of the mandates of the relevant multilateral institutions.

Threat of financial crisis

39. The capacities of the international, regional and subregional financial institutions with regard to the prevention, management and resolution in a timely and effective manner of international financial crises should be improved. Relevant international and regional institutions should develop further early-warning capacities and modalities to prevent or to take timely action to address the threat of financial crisis. The policy advice provided by the international financial institutions should respond to the special needs of developing countries, and in individual cases should reflect the specific circumstances of the country concerned.

40. The involvement of the private sector in the prevention and resolution of financial crises should be enhanced. There should be an equitable distribution of the cost of adjustments between the public and private sectors and among debtors, creditors and investors. Actions expected of all relevant parties during financial crises should be understood before crises erupt, thereby reducing uncertainty during calm as well as crisis periods.

41. The international community should encourage national, regional and international efforts to minimize the negative impacts of excessive volatility of short-term financial flows. It should welcome and support national efforts to develop efficient frameworks for official oversight of short-term capital flows and trade in currencies.

42. Regulation and supervision of the financial and banking sectors in the countries of both origin and destination of international capital flows should be strengthened. Official surveillance of financial market participants should be further developed.

Direct private investment

43. The conditions to encourage domestic investment are equally relevant for foreign direct investment (FDI). The development of human resources, infrastructure and access to markets in host countries are conducive to FDI and can be reinforced by the liberalization of FDI restrictions, greater international availability of information about host country conditions, and national and regional investment promotion.

44. The international community should support developing countries, particularly least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, with financial resources and technical cooperation in their efforts to improve their investment climate. Insurance for foreign direct investors against political and related risks in developing and transition economies, such as provided by the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency of the World Bank, should continue to be expanded to help reduce perceptions of the riskiness of investing in these countries.

45. Transnational corporations should operate in accordance with the priorities and policies of host countries and meet internationally accepted standards of business ethics. Firms should abide by the guidelines for multinational enterprises of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries should serve as a guideline for double-taxation treaties between developed and developing countries, including with respect to taxation relating to transnational corporations.

Official cooperation for development

46. The international community should revitalize official development assistance and ensure adequate support for sources of other official flows, in particular the multilateral development banks. It should assist developing and transition economies with unsustainable debt burdens to speedily bring to a close their debt-related difficulties through the requisite relief.

Official development assistance

47. Developed countries should strengthen their efforts to increase their official development assistance (ODA) so as to reach the agreed United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) and, within that target, to earmark 0.2 per cent of their GNP for the least developed countries.

48. Donors and recipients recognize the need to enhance the impact of ODA on economic development and poverty. This requires a strong partnership between donors and recipients. Recipient countries should assume ownership of aid programmes and design them in line with their development priorities, while at the same time collaborating with donors. In this regard, the full untying of ODA would be a step in the right direction. Greater efforts should be made to improve aid coordination and to simplify donor reporting requirements. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the World Bank's comprehensive development framework, the International Monetary Fund (IMF)/World Bank poverty reduction strategy papers and national poverty reduction papers prepared in response to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development should be consolidated in order to reduce the burden on host countries and facilitate implementation.

49. To support the priority of social development, donor and recipient countries should consider the mutual commitments to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of bilateral ODA and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes.

50. Many of these actions require the quality and effectiveness of the public sector in developing and transition economies to be enhanced. The international community, including the United Nations system, should continue to support capacity-building in those countries and should provide adequate resources for that purpose.

External debt

51. The enhancements to the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative adopted in September 1999 should be implemented in full and without delay. In addition, an entirely new approach to handling the debt problem of the heavily indebted poor countries needs to be considered in the future, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his Millennium Report (A/54/2000).

52. The main components of a new approach should include the immediate cancellation of the debts owed by countries that have suffered major conflicts or natural disasters; expanding the number of countries in the HIPC scheme by allowing them to qualify on grounds of poverty alone; pegging debt repayments at a maximum percentage of foreign exchange earnings; and establishing a debt arbitration process to balance the interests of creditors and sovereign debtors and introduce greater discipline in their relations.

53. The international community should also take measures to address the debt problems of middle-income developing and transition economies, leading to the attainment of a sustainable debt situation for each of them.

54. Developed countries and multilateral organizations should continue to support efforts to strengthen the institutional capacity of developing and transition economies in debt management through specific debt management capacity-building programmes.

Global public goods

55. In an increasingly globalized world, the need to address cross-border problems and externalities, such as control of epidemic diseases, environmental protection and conflict prevention and peacekeeping, has become imperative. Those concerns can be addressed effectively only through international cooperation among all countries. However, developed countries should assist developing countries in removing obstacles to their adequate contribution to the provision of essential public goods. These activities should be funded by additional resources and not by tapping ODA.

3. International trade policy

56. Support should be provided to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to identify trade policy tools to make their

development policy more effective and in their negotiations for accession to WTO. Such efforts should take into account countries' different stages of development and provide for special and differential treatment, as established and recognized in the various decisions of the General Assembly, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and WTO.

57. The problems that some countries have had with respect to certain WTO agreements due to human, institutional and financial constraints should be addressed urgently so as to ensure that the multilateral trading system results in mutual benefits for all countries. Any new WTO agreements should contain provisions for assistance to developing and transition countries to enable them to establish the infrastructure and other conditions necessary for the effective implementation of those agreements and to ensure that they reap their full benefits.

58. Developing countries should take measures to improve their competitiveness in international commodity markets, such as by establishing cooperative arrangements among enterprises to improve supply reliability and quality. Existing mechanisms to help stabilize commodity export earnings should be improved. Market transparency and the availability of information should be improved and developing country enterprises should enhance their capacity to access and use information, particularly in electronic form. Training to that end should be supported.

59. Developing countries should enter into a third round of negotiations to deepen and expand the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries.

60. Developed countries should reduce tariff levels and simplify tariff structures to encourage exports from developing and transition economies. Barriers to entry in those sectors where those countries have the best chance of exporting, such as textiles, clothing and food products, should be removed. Concrete action should be taken so that a greater number of developing countries, in particular least developed countries, can benefit effectively from the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and other preferential arrangements. Any sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) should be adopted in line with the SPS Agreement. Developing countries should be enabled to participate fully in the elaboration of international standards in those fields.

61. Special and differential treatment (SDT) to maintain and expand export opportunities for developing countries should be adapted to changing international trading conditions so that it is a better instrument for development, enabling developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to gradually integrate into the multilateral trading system. Developing countries should be enabled to make full use of the SDT provisions.

62. International support should be given to developing and transition economies to assist them in the development of competitive supply capacities. Special and differential treatment in WTO agreements, such as the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, should be considered in order to better reflect the developing countries' needs.

63. Restrictive business practices (RBPs) should not be allowed to impede or negate the realization of benefits arising from the liberalization of tariff and non-tariff barriers, particularly those affecting the trade and development of developing countries. Efforts should be made to tackle the negative effects of RBPs by, *inter alia*, promoting competition, controlling concentration of economic power and encouraging innovation. Enterprises should be prevented from establishing market barriers where governmental controls have been removed.

64. Financial and technical assistance should be provided to address the problem of food security in net food-importing developing countries. In particular, concrete measures should be taken to ensure the implementation of the Marrakech Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries.

65. The special and differential measures in favour of least developed countries contained in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round, especially the Marrakech Declaration and Ministerial Decisions, should be implemented in full and as a matter of priority. Market access conditions for products of export interest to least developed countries should be improved on as broad and liberal a basis as possible. Developed countries should grant duty-free and quota-free market access for all exports originating in least developed countries, and should adopt other measures to

maximize market access for least developed countries. Developing countries should also contribute to improved market access for least developed countries' exports. All countries that announced market access commitments at the high-level meeting on integrated initiatives for least developed countries' trade development held in October 1997 should implement those commitments fully and expeditiously.

66. Developing countries should endeavour to strengthen their institutional, financial and human capacities and regulatory framework in the services sector to enable them to engage effectively in international trade in services. Assistance should be provided to developing countries in upgrading and developing their services infrastructure and in securing reliable information on the extent of services trade and on market access and barriers to services trade. Within the framework of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), particular efforts should be made to liberalize sectors and modes of supply of interest to developing countries, including the supply of services via the temporary movement of people. Disciplines should be formulated in such a way that provisions on requirements, qualification procedures, licences and technical standards do not constitute barriers to trade.

67. In order to take advantage of the potential of electronic commerce as a means of exporting labour-intensive services, developing countries need access to modern telecommunications infrastructures and networks at low cost. At the same time, electronic commerce should not be seen as a substitute for easing restrictions on the supply of services through temporary movements of natural persons.

4. Technological development and protection of intellectual property

68. Technology does not automatically flow from technology-rich to technology-poor countries and the technological gap between developed and developing countries is wide and increasing in most cases. Reducing that gap requires efforts on the part of developing and transition economies to acquire and cultivate technology and efforts on the part of developed countries to transfer technology and know-how to them.

69. In order to encourage technological development, developing and transition economies should promote human resource development, strengthen their policy and legal frameworks, ensure a competitive environment, encourage the establishment of more sophisticated industries, establish science and technology institutes and related infrastructure, and promote business support services. Developed countries should adopt measures that encourage the transfer of technology, particularly environmentally sound technologies, to transition and developing countries, in particular the least developed countries. Assistance should be provided in assessing specific technology needs, identifying technology suppliers and concluding mutually beneficial technology agreements and partnerships in such areas as information technology, biotechnology and environmentally sound technologies. There should be an exchange of best practices and the provision of technical and financial assistance to countries seeking to improve their technological capabilities. In accordance with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), developed countries should provide incentives to their enterprises and institutions to promote and encourage technology transfer to the least developed countries.

70. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are central to the creation of and participation in the global knowledge-based economy and society. ICT can play an important role in accelerating growth, eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development in developing countries and economies in transition. ICT is also critical in facilitating the integration of these countries into the global economy. However, the experience of developed countries shows that large-scale waste can result from indiscriminate investments in ICT. Developing countries and economies in transition should draw lessons from these experiences and adopt strategies that will enable them to capture the benefits of ICT and avoid misinvestment.

71. Such strategies should include galvanizing the necessary political will at the highest level, devising national ICT development plans, developing the necessary human and institutional capacities and, crucially, providing a conducive policy framework to help create stable and expanding markets for ICT. That framework should include liberalization and privatization of ICT activities, facilitation of competition, a sound regulatory environment and public action to authenticate ICT services and electronic commerce. At the international level, the United Nations system should provide global leadership at the highest level and

mobilize and commit the necessary resources to bridge the digital divide. Other actions should include the promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity and local content in cyberspace, as well as the promotion of global partnerships to foster knowledge flows for development.

72. In the current environment of intensifying globalization, rapid technological advance and a knowledge-intensive economy, creative and innovative activity plays a key role in all aspects of development. Intellectual property is relevant in such fields as food security, health, labour, trade, traditional knowledge, culture and heritage, the environment, biological diversity and scientific and technological advancement. All countries should establish regulatory frameworks to provide effective protection of intellectual property. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), in partnership with the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders, should continue to promote and protect intellectual property as a strategic tool for development.

D. Social development

1. Education

73. Over the past decade, progress has been in many countries towards universal and equitable access to quality education, but there continue to be major concerns about education of girls, women and vulnerable groups, and about the quality of education, equity in education and the efficient and effective use of resources for education. Lifelong learning and the use of new information technologies have become important additional challenges.

74. All Governments should:

(a) Expand and improve comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children;

(b) Ensure that all children, with special emphasis on girls, particularly the poorest, working children and children with special needs, complete a good quality primary education by 2015;

(c) Ensure that the learning needs of all young people are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life-skills programmes;

(d) Provide equitable access to basic and continuing education programmes for adults, achieving at least a 50 per cent reduction in current gender disparities within a decade;

(e) Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, as a milestone towards achieving gender equality in education programmes, institutions and systems by 2015;

(f) Improve all aspects of the quality of education so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes are achieved, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills.

75. To achieve those goals, Governments and the international community should:

(a) Mobilize strong national and international political commitment for education for all, develop national action plans and enhance significantly investment in basic education;

(b) Promote "Education for all" (EFA) policies within a sustainable and well-integrated sector framework clearly linked to poverty elimination and development strategies;

(c) Ensure the engagement and participation of civil society in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of strategies for educational development;

(d) Develop responsive, participatory and accountable systems of educational governance and management;

(e) Meet the needs of education systems affected by conflict, natural calamities and instability and conduct educational programmes in ways that promote mutual understanding, peace and tolerance, and help to prevent violence and conflict;

(f) Implement integrated strategies for gender equality in education which recognize the need for changes in attitudes, values and practices;

(g) Urgently implement education programmes and actions to combat the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic;

(h) Create safe, healthy, inclusive and equitably resourced educational environments conducive to excellence in learning and clearly defined levels of achievement for all;

(i) Enhance the status, morale and professionalism of teachers;

(j) Harness new information and communication technologies to help achieve EFA goals;

(k) Systematically monitor progress towards EFA goals and strategies at the national, regional and international levels;

(l) Build on existing mechanisms to accelerate progress towards education for all.

2. Health

Health care

76. The Alma-Ata Declaration of 1979 remains the basis for achieving "Health for all". At several of the global conferences in the 1990s, Governments renewed their commitment to ensuring the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health and the access of all to primary health care, and set or reconfirmed, the goals for infant mortality, maternal mortality and reproductive health.

77. As called for by the International Conference on Population and Development, all countries should take steps to meet the family-planning needs of their populations as soon as possible and should, in all cases by the year 2015, seek to provide universal access to a full range of safe and reliable family-planning methods and to related reproductive health services that are not against the law. Public, private and non-governmental family-planning organizations should remove all programme-related barriers to family-planning use by the year 2005 through the redesign or expansion of information and services and other measures to increase the ability of couples and individuals to make free and informed decisions about the number, spacing and timing of births and to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases.

78. All countries should make primary health care, particularly reproductive health care, universally available by the end of the decade. Countries should aim to achieve by 2005 a life expectancy at birth greater than 70 years and by 2015 a life expectancy at birth greater than 75 years. Countries with the highest levels of mortality should aim to achieve by 2005 a life expectancy at birth greater than 65 years and by 2015 a life expectancy at birth greater than 70 years.

79. Countries should strive to reduce their infant and under-5 mortality rates, with appropriate adaptation to the particular situation of each country. By 2005, countries with intermediate mortality levels should aim to achieve an infant mortality rate below 50 deaths per 1,000 births and an under-5 mortality rate below 60 deaths per 1,000 births. By 2015, all countries should aim to achieve an infant mortality rate below 35 per 1,000 live births and an under-5 mortality rate below 45 per 1,000 births.

80. Countries should reduce their maternal mortality rate to one quarter of its 1990 level by 2015. Countries with intermediate levels of mortality should aim to achieve a maternal mortality rate below 100 per 100,000 live births by the year 2005 and a rate below 60 per 100,000 live births by the year 2015. Countries with the highest levels of mortality should aim to achieve a maternal mortality rate below 125 per 100,000 live births by 2005 and a rate below 75 per 100,000 live births by 2015.

81. Much remains to be done to achieve those goals. At the global level, increased attention is needed to protect the health of poor and marginalized populations and otherwise reduce health inequalities; to counter the potential threat to health from nutritional deficiencies, environmental hazards and risky behaviour; to develop more effective health systems; and to invest in health research, especially for new vaccines and drugs. Special focus is needed on such global challenges as the HIV/AIDS epidemic, especially in Africa (see paras. 140-142 below), the resurgence of malaria and tuberculosis and the consequences of tobacco use. Public-private partnerships, such as those in research and development on vaccines for HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases, should be encouraged and supported. Governments should unite behind such key initiatives as Roll Back Malaria (aiming to halve malaria deaths by 2010), the Tobacco-Free Initiative, the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa, and the Children's Challenge Campaign (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations).

Drug abuse

82. The special session of the General Assembly in 1998 devoted to the problem of drug abuse recognized demand reduction as an indispensable pillar in countering that multidimensional problem. All countries and the international community should adhere to the session's Political Declaration, wherein

Member States committed themselves: (a) to establishing the year 2003 as a target date for having in place new or enhanced demand reduction strategies and programmes, in close collaboration with public health, social welfare and law enforcement authorities; and (b) to achieving significant and measurable results in the field of demand reduction by the year 2008. The Action Plan for the implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction should help all countries find adequate responses to drug abuse, based on regular assessments of the problem, knowledge acquired from research and lessons derived from past programmes. All countries in partnership with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) should establish national and regional drug abuse monitoring systems and facilitate the sharing of information on best strategies and practices.

3. Children

83. Since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989 and the World Summit for Children in 1990, more progress has been made for the world's children than in any comparable period, demonstrating that concerted efforts by Governments, with international mobilization and support, can have concrete results. Nevertheless, intensified national efforts to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of children and the commitment and mobilization of the international community are required to meet most of the targets set at the Summit.

84. Three areas should be given priority attention: (a) providing nurturing, care and a safe environment that enables children to survive and to be physically healthy, mentally alert, emotionally secure, socially competent and able to learn; (b) the opportunity to complete a basic education of good quality; and (c) for adolescents, the opportunity to fully develop their individual capacities in safe and enabling environments so that they can participate in and contribute to their societies. Priorities for cooperation should continue to include the support of national efforts and local initiatives to ensure safe motherhood, immunize children, promote their nutrition and healthy growth, protect them against death from dehydration, reduce their exposure to malaria and provide them with opportunities for good quality primary education.

85. All countries should adhere to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour that was unanimously adopted in 1999, and should set specific target dates for eliminating child labour.

4. Employment

86. The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development committed the international community to promoting the goal of full employment as a basic priority of our economic and social policies, and to enable all men and women to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work. Governments should ensure that employment creation is a central feature of policy formulation and, through policies on education, training and labour, should enhance employment opportunities for groups with special needs. As the liberalization of trade and capital flows have not been matched by commensurate increases in labour mobility and skills, special initiatives are needed to ensure that labour is not adversely affected by globalization. There should be greater integration of policies for economic growth, with policies for employment creation. Better monitoring and evaluation are required to understand the social, human and financial costs of unemployment, underemployment and low-quality and unproductive work and to assess the employment impact of public policies and programmes. There should be more exchange of experience on successful policies and programmes aimed at increasing employment and reducing unemployment.

87. More opportunity for education at all levels is necessary to provide the growing labour force with enough skills to qualify for the types of employment that are growing rapidly in the global economy. In order to raise productivity and provide for increases in real wages, vocational and other job-related training should be promoted.

88. Since small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) excel at job creation, developing and transition economies should promote the growth of SMEs. These measures could include providing information on markets and providing new support structures, such as programmes for entrepreneurship, credit, capacity-building and training, for example to meet new standards being set in international negotiations.

89. As called for in the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work adopted by the

ternational Labour Conference in June 1998, ternational organizations should support efforts to omote through technical cooperation and advisory rvices the labour principles and rights recognized in e Copenhagen Declaration, namely freedom of sociation and the effective recognition of the right to llective bargaining, the elimination of all forms of rced or compulsory labour, the effective abolition of ild labour and the elimination of discrimination in spect of employment and occupation.

. Newly emerging employment issues that should addressed nationally in the coming decade include e growing informalization of employment, the owing number of the working poor and strategies to crease the employment impact of economic growth.

5. Social integration

. Social integration is both a precondition and a nsequence of poverty alleviation and unemployment; requires its own operational policies to balance the rces of unification and fragmentation. Achieving or aintaining unity with diversity is a challenge for all untries and a pressing need in countries with otracted social conflict. Social integration strategies ed political, economic, cultural and social mponents in order to address the polarization of entity-based groups and the marginalization of sadvantaged groups, and in order to cultivate lunteering, strengthen civil society and address lationships between civil society and government in ays that enhance collaboration and participation. ecific targets in the area of social integration could rtain to broad participation in decision-making, lanced media representation, the spread of civic ucation and the cultivation of life skills (such as alogue, resilience and resourcefulness).

6. Ageing of the population

. Population ageing is now worldwide and is celerating in developing countries. The world is pected to have two billion people (one out of every ve) over the age of 60 in 50 years, over 80 per cent of hom will live in developing countries. Population eing affects social and economic support systems, cluding labour and capital markets, government nsions and services and traditional support systems. imposes further pressures on traditional and formal pport systems, and particularly affects health care d income security. At the same time, the recognition of older people as a valuable resource is in the interest of society at large, especially as the average number of productive years of older people has increased. Family and community networks, which are vital to ageing populations, should be strengthened to increase intergenerational cohesion, especially in developing countries, where many aspects of modernization and globalization are rapidly loosening family ties.

E. Environmental protection and sustainable development

1. Issues concerning Agenda 21 and the five-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

93. Economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development. Achieving sustainable development requires the attainment of a number of interdependent and mutually reinforcing goals.

94. Agenda 21 and the principles enunciated in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, as well as the provisions of all international conventions on environment and development, provide the basis for action at the global, regional, national and local levels for achieving sustainable development. The full implementation of the commitments and objectives contained in those agreements should remain the goal for the coming decade. At the five-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Member States reaffirmed the paramount importance of Agenda 21, which should continue to be the primary guide for the specific results-oriented measures that should be implemented in individual sectors.

95. All countries should strive to promote sustainable consumption patterns. Developed countries should take the lead in working towards that goal; developing countries should seek to achieve sustainable consumption patterns in their development process, avoiding replication of patterns prevalent in industrialized countries which are harmful to the environment and wasteful of natural resources. Governments should consider incorporating the United Nations system of

"green accounting" into national accounts in order to reflect those costs. The business sector should shape more sustainable patterns of production and consumption by encouraging producer responsibility and by promoting such measures as environmental audits, environmental impact assessments and the development of "green" products. Eco-efficiency measures should be supported to improve the efficiency of resource use and to reduce the waste stream.

96. All countries should adopt a balanced and integrated approach to trade and sustainable development, based on a combination of trade liberalization, economic growth and environmental protection.

97. All countries, individually and collectively, should adopt the goal of halving the proportion of people who do not have access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Developed countries should provide financial and technical support to developing countries to help realize that objective. The provision of adequate water supply for all uses requires an integrated, multisectoral, participatory approach, based on demand — as well as supply-side considerations and on building local capacity for the use of appropriate technologies. Public and private investments to improve water supply and wastewater treatment should be encouraged, including such water conservation measures as economic valuation of water and appropriate water pricing.

98. There should be greater efforts, including enhanced international cooperation, to promote energy conservation, improving energy efficiency, and to support wider use of renewable energy. Research on and development and use of renewable sources of energy should be promoted; in the case of fossil fuels, further research, development and the application and transfer of cleaner technology should be encouraged.

99. As agreed at the five-year review of UNCED, all countries should complete by 2002 the formulation of national sustainable development strategies. Thereafter, there should be regular assessments of progress and exchanges of experience among Governments. The adoption of local Agenda 21 processes and other initiatives by major groups should be actively encouraged. To enhance the impact of such processes, particularly in least developed countries, supportive national policy and fiscal frameworks should be created and national and international development assistance programmes should become more responsive to local Agenda 21 action plans. Norms and tools for good urban governance should be fully integrated in local Agenda 21 processes.

100. A policy framework supportive of sustainable development should consist of a broad package of policy instruments, including national laws and regulations, such economic measures as the internalization of environmental costs in market prices, environmental impact analysis and information dissemination. The design and implementation of those policies should be a transparent and participatory process, involving not only Governments and national legislative assemblies but also all stakeholders of civil society.

101. To ensure success in the implementation of those policies, institutional capacity should be strengthened. A mechanism should be established to coordinate efforts within Governments and at the national and local levels. Environmental protection agencies should be established and strengthened to enhance the enforcement and monitoring capacity of Governments. The work of national sustainable development councils, whether sponsored by Governments or formed by civil society, and collaboration with their counterparts should be fully supported by Member States.

102. Continued efforts are needed to develop, utilize and disseminate cost-effective national indicators to measure progress in achieving the goals of sustainable development, including gender-disaggregated data and information.

103. *The full implementation of international* environmental agreements, notably the conventions on climate change, biological diversity, desertification, hazardous wastes and the law of the sea, should continue to be a key objective for the international community. Countries that have not yet ratified the Kyoto Protocol should take the necessary action so that it can enter into force by 2002. Developed countries should take specific action to meet their greenhouse gas reduction targets, entered into under the Protocol, within the established time-frames.

2. Specific environmental issues

Biotechnology

104. Genetic engineering and other biotechnologies have the potential to increase productivity in agriculture, forestry and fisheries and to improve the nutritional

quality of food products. However, agricultural genetic engineering to date has focused on increasing the production efficiency of modern intensive farming. More research is needed on bio-safety and on applications of genetic engineering for sustainable agriculture in developing countries. Special measures need to be taken at the international level to ensure an adequate allocation of resources for biotechnology research on issues of high relevance to developing countries, such as drought-tolerant crops and biological nitrogen fixation. There is also a need to increase the participation of developing countries in research, development and application of biotechnologies. International organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, should contribute to such efforts.

105. All countries should ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity and contribute to the conservation of biological resources, their sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. They should also complete the revision of the international undertaking on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, whose objective is to ensure the exploration, collection, conservation, evaluation, utilization and availability of plant genetic resources, in order to harmonize it with the Convention on Biological Diversity. Those agreements and related World Trade Organization agreements, including the TRIPS Agreement, should be implemented consistently with a view to promoting sustainable agricultural development.

106. All countries should sign and ratify the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety concerning the transboundary movement of living modified organisms and should support its effective implementation. Countries and international organizations should promote further research on possible environmental and health risks of genetic engineering and other biotechnologies. They should also contribute to international efforts to maximize the positive effects and minimize the possible negative impacts of biotechnologies in agriculture, such as the efforts of the FAO/World Health Organization (WHO) Codex Alimentarius Commission and the intergovernmental Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. FAO and other organizations concerned with agricultural development should assist developing countries in elaborating policies to promote the safe use of biotechnologies for development.

Sustainable forestry

107. Deforestation continues in developing countries, driven mainly by the need for land for agriculture and other purposes. Forests in both developed and developing countries are threatened by a range of pressures, such as the demand for wood products, the demand for recreational use, airborne pollution, the demand for fuelwood and forest fires. Reduced or degraded habitats threaten biological life at the gene, species and ecosystem levels, including their potential for the provision of key products and services.

108. Some progress has been made in reversing the current trends in deforestation and degradation and in moving towards the sustainable management of all forests. The international community has continued its dialogue on forestry issues through the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (former Intergovernmental Panel on Forests), which at its final meeting recommended to the Economic and Social Council through the Commission on Sustainable Development the establishment of the United Nations Forum on Forests to promote and facilitate long-term international arrangements to manage and protect all types of the world's forests. In addition to institutional and legal issues, other issues that might be addressed include the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation; the need for planning in the forestry sector through the national forest programme approach, which includes the contribution of the forestry sector to sustainable livelihoods; forest conservation and protected areas; the special forestry needs and requirements both of countries with low forest cover and small island developing States; forest assessment; the conservation of forest biological diversity; the management of forests in watersheds; forests fires; soil and water conservation; trade in forest products and its impact on the environment; the transfer of technologies; and the need for increased financial resources for sustainable forest management.

F. Human settlements

109. The Habitat Agenda adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) has two themes "Adequate shelter for all" and "Sustainable human settlements development in an

urbanizing world". The urban poor themselves produce the vast majority of shelter in developing countries and national policies should support those initiatives, such as by granting secure tenure in order to attract resources, effort and investment, and by providing urban services and improved access to credit. Good urban governance is also needed to promote sustainable human settlements development. All Governments, local authorities and civil society partners should support the Global Campaign for Good Urban Governance and the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure as two strategic means for effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

110. In 1950, the urban population represented less than 30 per cent of the world's population; by 2020, it will be 60 per cent, with the urban growth rate in developing countries being five times higher than that of developed countries. Policies to prevent the inflow of urban migrants have been ineffective, and experience has shown that in the longer term well-managed urbanization is called for. As noted in the Habitat Agenda, urban settlements, properly planned and managed, hold the promise for human development and the protection of the world's natural resources through their ability to support large numbers of people while limiting their impact on the natural environment. However, roughly one third of the urban population in developing countries live in squatter settlements or slums that lack water and sanitation and health and education facilities. As part of the effort to address that problem, all countries should support the Cities Without Slums Initiative and similar national and international programmes with a view to achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

111. To mitigate the impact of the increasing number of disasters, both natural and human-caused, it is necessary to establish systems that identify and assess risks and vulnerabilities in disaster-prone areas and to integrate them into human settlements planning and design. Actions are required at appropriate levels of government, in partnership with the private sector and community groups, to put into place disaster preparedness and response capacities that are coordinated in their planning but flexible in their implementation.

G. Human rights and governance

112. All countries and peoples should abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

113. All Governments should ensure full participation and empowerment of women at all levels of decision-making; gender equality; effective participation of civil society (private sector and non-governmental organizations); effective decentralization of power, where appropriate; universal access to knowledge, information and education; equity and a voice for the poor; political and cultural pluralism and freedom of association and expression; the rule of law and respect for human rights; legitimacy and consensus on societal decisions; and attitudes and values fostering responsibility, solidarity and tolerance.

114. To ensure the rule of law, there should be an independent judiciary and a fair system of crime prevention and criminal justice, and Governments should promote a culture of lawfulness. Criminal justice systems should be made to work better by making them both more effective as crime-control systems and more just and protective for human rights.

115. There should be extensive participation of civil society in public decision-making and a high degree of transparency and accountability in the public sector. The relationship between the state and the citizen should be based on policies that guarantee the fundamental freedoms and human rights of the individual so that personal initiatives can contribute to socio-economic development. Civil society's participation in the political process should be supplemented by forms of corporate governance that also ensure widespread participation in economic decision-making.

116. Economic governance should be based on interaction between State institutions and markets. The development of increasingly market-oriented economies should be supplemented by a redefinition of the functions of the nation State in political and economic governance, especially taking into account globalization and technological change. The public-private divide

should be such that public policies create an enabling environment for private-sector development. National and international governance systems should provide the legal and institutional frameworks which support markets and regulate private-sector activities. Internationally, globalization underlines the need to establish effective international economic regimes based on intergovernmental agreements.

117. Nationally, Governments should constantly review their basic functions and develop their policy capacities and institutional arrangements to promote development. Governments should adopt public expenditure, tax, regulatory and competition policies that combine economic efficiency and social justice. The State should organize social security systems capable of providing protection against basic risks, such as old age, sickness and unemployment.

118. For effective implementation of public policies, Governments need adequate managerial and administrative capacities. Public-sector and administrative reforms should be undertaken and new managerial approaches adopted to ensure that the civil service is able to provide high-quality public services. The systems of public-sector, financial, human-resource and information management should be continually modernized. Procedures to ensure the accountability of government operations and policies to ensure ethical conduct and to avoid corruption should be enforced. Governance systems should ensure an adequate role for different branches of government, especially the legislative branch and an independent judiciary, which requires adequate constitutional and administrative laws. Fiscal and administrative matters should be decentralized as far as possible.

H. Culture and development

119. The World Commission on Culture and Development (1995) argued persuasively that sustainable development and the flourishing of culture are interdependent. Culture is the flow of memories, meanings and bonds. It comprises both the heritage upon which collective identities are based and the creativity that empowers people to enrich and renew those identities. Culture provides individuals and societies with the energies and cohesion they need in order to cope with uncertainty and rapid change in an increasingly complex world. It is a factor of economic growth as well, for cultural heritage, cultural tourism and the cultural industries contribute significantly to income and employment generation.

120. By the same token, cultural diversity is as essential to sustainable development as biological diversity, so that the peoples of the world may forge their own paths of development without losing their identity. The pressures of globalization makes it even more imperative to elaborate strategies to address that challenge.

121. That twofold vision was endorsed by the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development (Stockholm, 1998), which recommended to Governments that they make cultural policy one of the key components of development strategy and called explicitly for the integration of a cultural perspective into the next international development strategy.

I. Actions related to countries in special situations

1. Africa and the least developed countries

122. There should be a renewed commitment on the part of the international community to accord special priority to the development needs of the world's poorest countries, especially the least developed countries and countries in Africa. The report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318) emphasized the link between peace and development and made a series of recommendations aimed at addressing, in an integrated way, the political and security, as well as the economic and social, causes of conflicts in the region. The international community should ensure that those recommendations are implemented. Similarly, both donor countries and the least developed countries themselves should honour the commitments made in the Programme of Action for least developed countries for the 1990s.

123. A long-term solution to the debt problem of Africa and the least developed countries must be found. Donors should ensure full funding of the HIPC initiative. Official creditors should convert into grants all remaining official bilateral debt of the poorest African countries. Debt relief should be additional, rather than a substitution of one form of assistance for another (such as ODA).

124. Donor countries should increase the volume of ODA to those countries, ensure that at least 50 per cent of aid to Africa is spent in recipient countries and restructure aid to focus on high-impact sectors, including rural water supply, basic education and primary health care. Donors should also direct assistance to upgrading skills and promoting trade by funding investments in physical infrastructure in Africa and the least developed countries which would help to attract private investment. Aid should be untied in order to achieve greater effectiveness.

125. The shares of total international private capital flows going to Africa and the least developed countries are approximately 5 per cent and less than 2 per cent, respectively. A disproportionately large share is channelled into extractive activities in the oil, mining and forestry sectors, with limited backward- and forward-linkage effects on those economies. Developed countries should encourage more private sector investment in other sectors in Africa and the least developed countries.

126. All tariffs and quotas on the exports of the least developed countries should be eliminated. All countries should reduce tariff peaks and tariff escalation in order to encourage vertical diversification in Africa and the least developed countries. To strengthen the supply capacity of least developed countries, additional support should be provided by donor countries to the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance. Special attention should also be paid to assisting African countries to benefit from electronic commerce, and more resources should be allocated to assist Africa and the least developed countries in developing their trade negotiating capacities.

127. Donor countries should provide financial assistance to the Programme for the Economic Diversification of Africa. Additional support should be provided to United Nations agencies to enable them to assist countries in Africa and the least developed countries in increasing their competitiveness in trade. The activities of the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities should be expanded to finance research and development, extension services and adaptive research on production and processing aimed particularly at smallholders and small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa and the least developed countries. Technical support should be given to those countries which would like to establish national diversification councils to bring together governmental, private-sector and non-governmental organizations that plan and operationalize national strategies for diversification.

128. Donor countries and international institutions should facilitate the transfer of private as well as publicly funded technologies to Africa and the least developed countries. Special consideration should be given to biotechnologies that could help to solve the food security problems of Africa and the least developed countries. Donors should support the exchange of experiences between and among countries and should provide additional financial assistance to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) International Fund for Technological Development for Africa. The international community should also review ways in which intellectual property systems can be used to ensure that the poorest countries have access to prophylactic and curative drugs.

129. WTO members should revisit the TRIPS Agreement to advance the cause of public health in Africa and the least developed countries.

2. Small island developing States

130. All parties should implement the policies, actions and measures at the national, regional and international levels set out in the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. While it is up to the small island developing States themselves to pursue sustainable development, all partners should foster an enabling environment to support States in that regard. Action should focus on promoting investment and resource mobilization, transferring environmentally sound technologies and strengthening capacity-building.

3. Landlocked developing countries

131. The lack of territorial access to the sea, isolation from world markets and high transit costs and risks impose serious constraints on the socio-economic development of landlocked developing countries. These countries and their transit neighbours should strengthen regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation and collaboration regarding, *inter alia*, the improvement of the physical infrastructure of transit transport systems, joint ventures in the area of transit transport, arrangements governing transit transport operations, the simplification, harmonization and

standardization of transit procedures and documentation (including through the application of information technologies), and institutions and human resources dealing with transit transport.

132. All States, international organizations and financial institutions should implement the actions related to the needs and problems of landlocked developing countries agreed upon in resolutions and declarations adopted by the General Assembly, in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and in the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community. They should also take fully into account the agreed recommendations and conclusions of the fourth meeting of governmental experts from landlocked and transit developing countries and representatives of donor countries and financial and development institutions.

133. The improvement of transit transport facilities and services should be integrated into the overall economic development strategies of the landlocked and transit developing countries, and donors should take those requirements into account. Donor countries and multilateral financial and development institutions should provide landlocked and transit developing countries with financial and technical assistance for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities.

4. Post-conflict countries

134. The root causes of conflict in a society that is emerging from war or acute turmoil must be identified and addressed in order to achieve the overriding goal of avoiding the recurrence of war or chaos, which usually means a departure from the priorities and allocation of resources that apply in normal situations.

135. Peace-building requires a mutually reinforcing political strategy and assistance programme, incorporating human rights and cultural considerations and humanitarian and development programmes. Developmental and humanitarian programmes must contribute to consolidating peace and preventing renewed conflict, as well as improving conditions of life and relieving hardship. There must be smooth coordination of emergency relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and these, in turn, must feed into normal development activities.

136. The early launch of reconstruction and development activities, in tandem with humanitarian assistance, in a post-conflict environment can complement and underpin political stability. Even in the midst of active conflict, except in the most acute phases, some rehabilitation and reconstruction activities and some development tasks can be undertaken, thereby reducing both long- and short-term vulnerability. The objective should be to ensure that conflict is resolved on a lasting basis and that the process of long-term and sustainable development is resumed as expeditiously as possible.

137. Rebuilding governance structures, especially at the local level, and community links are key elements of durable post-conflict rehabilitation and peace-building. The regularization of land uses and housing and property rights, as well as the restoration of effective local government institutions, are essential measures to build confidence in the rehabilitation process and to trigger investment in social and economic development activities.

138. Donor countries should harmonize procedures for the release of emergency and reconstruction funds and should establish funding mechanisms specifically tailored to rehabilitation needs. International support should be particularly directed towards the demobilization and rehabilitation of ex-soldiers; the rehabilitation of infrastructure, particularly schools, health facilities, water supply and sanitation; and above all, the creation of employment opportunities and the reduction of poverty and inequities.

139. Where a country's capacity to develop has been disrupted by conflict, the financial conditions imposed by international lending institutions should be relaxed. Special measures also should be put in place to help those countries emerging from conflicts to clear their arrears with the Bretton Woods institutions and to allow them to benefit from the HIPC initiative. Conflict prevention, including post-conflict peace-building, may require an urgent infusion of funds to support the State during a political transition. Conditionalities that are antithetical to a peace process and reductions in international funding should be avoided when a government is making a popularly supported effort to pursue reconciliation or implement peace agreements. Where economic reform is needed, structural adjustment programmes should be "peace-friendly", conditionality should be eased and adequate funding assured.

5. Countries with the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS

140. In many countries of sub-Saharan Africa and increasingly in South and South-East Asia, the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, particularly among persons in their most productive years, is having tragic effects, including social disruption and economic devastation.

141. Development strategies for the coming decade — especially those relating to poverty alleviation and economic development — must take HIV/AIDS fully into account. Many hard-won development gains have already been eroded by the pandemic; it has adversely affected not only life expectancy and child mortality rates but also education, employment (particularly the availability of skilled labour) and human rights.

142. All Governments, individually and collectively, should aim to reduce HIV infection rates by 25 per cent in the most affected countries by 2005 and globally by 2010. All countries should ensure that by 2005, at least 90 per cent of young people have access to the information, education and services they need to protect themselves against HIV infection, and that by 2010 that proportion is raised to 95 per cent. Those goals require comprehensive, multisectoral responses that involve a broad range of actors. Bilateral and multilateral donors should work with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) within the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework to coordinate development cooperation activities on AIDS. Donor countries should support intra- and interregional cooperation to share best practices on HIV/AIDS prevention. Donor Governments should also work with the pharmaceutical industry to develop an effective and affordable vaccine against HIV and to make HIV-related drugs more widely accessible in developing countries. In addition, there is a need to develop strategies for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in emergencies and conflict situations.

IV. Implementation and follow-up

143. Implementation of the strategy requires an integrated and coherent implementation and follow-up of the recommendations and commitments of the global conferences, including their recent five-year reviews, and of other major agreements on development. Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing these outcomes and the strategy. Political will, at the national and international levels, is crucial if the objectives of the strategy are to be achieved. A strong political commitment by the international community is needed to strengthen international cooperation for development.

144. In addition to political will, it is necessary to identify and mobilize the financial and human resources that will be required to implement the present strategy. In the absence of a clear demonstration that the political support for the strategy is backed by the resources to implement it, the strategy will lack credibility. Governments could address those issues in the context of the United Nations financing for development process, as well as in the reviews of and coordinated follow-up to the global conferences. So that Governments are able to meet their responsibilities for implementation at the national level, they should develop their partnerships with local authorities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, women, youth and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

145. There should be periodic monitoring of the achievement of the policy and quantitative goals of the present strategy at the national, regional and international levels. Largely as a result of the global conferences, many international organizations are compiling additional indicators for assessing progress towards development goals. Those initiatives have set in motion efforts to improve definitions, collection methods and estimation procedures.

146. The extent to which countries are able to provide such information depends heavily on the availability of basic data collected through the national statistical system. However, data availability is determined by both financial and historical factors, and problems of quality, timeliness and availability of data persist. Since statistical activities are often inadequately funded, particularly in developing countries, the number of subject areas covered and the frequency of data collection are often limited. In addition, where the demand for data on specific topics is relatively new, concepts and methods may not have been developed or adequately tested. All countries should continue efforts to improve their capability to monitor the implementation of their development goals, particularly those of the present strategy. The international community should reinforce those efforts by providing both substantive support and resource.

147. The organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system have a special responsibility for pursuing the goals and objectives of the present strategy and keeping progress under review. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should ensure that this is done. The General Assembly should monitor the implementation of the strategy in the context of its work on the follow-up to the conferences and summits, under a specific item to be included periodically in its agenda. The Economic and Social Council should continue to assist the General Assembly in this task by making recommendations to the Assembly on policies and procedures for an effective, efficient and coordinated follow-up to the major international conferences and the strategy. The Council should intensify its efforts to promote a coordinated and integrated follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the conferences and summits of the 1990s and of the present strategy. It should also deepen its dialogue with the international trade and financial institutions in order to improve coherence between the development objectives agreed by the international community and the functioning of the international trading and financial systems.

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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Item 20 (b) of the preliminary list*
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Economic and Social Council
Substantive session of 2000
New York, 5 July-1 August 2000
Item 5 of the provisional agenda**
Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The inauguration of an elected Government headed by President Charles G. Taylor in August 1997 constituted a significant landmark in Liberia's transition from civil conflict to peace and resumption of normal development activities. However, two and a half years after the inauguration, the path to sustainable peace and recovery remains uncertain, owing mainly to residual governance problems and inadequate external support to the country's reconstruction programme. The restoration of peace has not brought rapid and sustainable social and economic recovery, despite programmes initiated by the Government aimed at reconciliation and reconstruction. The peace process was supported by the international community with substantive technical and logistical support coming from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the United Nations system, and Liberia's major donors, notable among which were the European Union (EU), the United States of America, the Netherlands, France, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The United Nations agencies, through the resident coordinator system, continued their support for the consolidation of the gains of the peace process.

2. After its inauguration, the Government launched the National Reconstruction Programme (NRP), to address critical needs arising from the conflict and to lay the foundation for sustainable long-term recovery. The process of formulating the NRP was highly participatory and took into consideration the views and contributions of the United Nations system, USAID, EU, the Bretton Woods institutions, and the civil society and non-governmental organizations operating within the country. The NRP identified the Government's priority areas as the consolidation of peace and democracy, resettlement, reintegration and active participation of the people, and rebuilding the physical, social, and institutional infrastructure that had been virtually destroyed during the conflict.

3. In view of the above-mentioned goals, international assistance is geared towards building capacity for participatory and accountable governance

* A/55/50.

** E/2000/100.

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and recreating a social safety net for the population, which now stands at 2.6 million and grows at the rate of 2.4 per cent annually. Eighty percent of the country's population, as estimated by the United Nations Common Country Assessment (CCA), lives below the poverty line of US$ 1 per day. Per capita income level fell from $457 (1987) to $150 (1997) and had risen to only $225 in 1999. The infant mortality rate stands at 780 per 100,000 live births, with equally high mortality and morbidity rates among the adult population due to preventable and easily cured diseases. International assistance is also focused on rebuilding capacity for essential governmental operations, including the restoration of the effectiveness of the court system and confidence in the rule of law. United Nations assistance has continued in various forms of residual humanitarian and reconstruction activities, along the lines described below.

II. Specific actions taken in response to the Donors' Conference

4. The NRP was presented to donors at a conference held in Paris on 7 April 1998. The initial response was favourable, and pledges and commitments totalling $229.9 million, 109 per cent of the first-phase funding requirement, were made. A mini-donors' meeting was held in Washington, D.C. on 29 September 1999 to assess progress on the implementation of the NRP and the general situation in the country. One of the conclusions of that meeting was that donors should carry out a joint assessment mission to Monrovia. The mission was carried out from 15 to 19 November 1999.

5. The Monrovia meeting was attended by representatives from the United States, the Netherlands, the European Union (EU), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Liberia, the Department of Peacekeeping Affairs (United Nations Secretariat), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The mission was jointly led by the World Bank and UNDP. The mission objectives were:

(a) To assess the implementation of the NRP and the use of donor funds committed at the 1998 Paris meeting;

(b) To review progress on specific areas that continue to be sources of concern to donors, including the rice and petroleum monopolies, creation of an enabling environment for the private sector through, *inter alia*, strengthening of the legal and judicial framework, and governance and human rights;

(c) To consult on the follow-up actions to the mission's findings.

6. In an atmosphere characterized by frank and open exchange of views, the Government presented its outlook on the current situation in the country, the challenges faced, successes achieved, and the persistent constraints to the national recovery process. The mission made observations and reiterated the concerns of the international community in four areas: internal security; good governance (including respect for the rule of law); macroeconomic performance; and humanitarian assistance.

7. The general conclusion was that significant progress had been made in the implementation of the first phase of the NRP. Approximately 90 per cent of the resources committed at the Paris 1998 meeting were being utilized. Moreover, the overall security situation had improved considerably. There were also positive results from the resettlement of the conflict-affected population and rehabilitation of war-ravaged social infrastructure. In addition, notable progress had been made in stabilizing the macroeconomic environment through far-reaching monetary, fiscal and structural policy reforms. It should be noted, however, that major infrastructures such as the electricity grid, communications system, and roads remained dysfunctional while the financial system and the weak capacity in all sectors further constrained the recovery process.

III. Governance, security, and the rule of law

8. As a post-conflict country, Liberia is still a fragile political setting, with limited internal resources, growing poverty, and dwindling external assistance, which constitute important factors militating against smooth transition. The two armed incursions in the north of the country in 1999 are evidence of the continuing need for reconciliation and peace-building activities extending across the national borders. The political and security situation is highly susceptible to

subregional events, especially in neighbouring Sierra Leone, where significant progress in the peace process has been difficult to achieve and the relations between members of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) the defunct Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) and some officials in the Government of Liberia have been a source of regional tensions. Therefore, Liberia's role in mediating the 1999 peace process in Sierra Leone has had a positive impact on the tenuous relations between the subregional States and on its internal security. Efforts to facilitate outstanding issues of reconciliation, peace-building, repatriation and healing have been encouraged through regular, open, and frank discussions with the United Nations system.

9. ECOWAS has intensified its efforts to help consolidate peace in the subregion. They include support for the 2 March 2000 summit of the Heads of State of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, held in Bamako, Mali, and that of their foreign ministers in Monrovia, Liberia, on 18 March 2000. The decision to revitalize the Mano River Union (MRU) institutions to deal with political, security, and socio-economic concerns between the three States featured prominently among the major outcomes of that process. Subsequent meetings are planned for the Heads of State and for ministers responsible for defence, security, the interior and foreign affairs during the month of May in Conakry and Freetown. To foster a sense of collective leadership and responsibility in the subregion, ECOWAS is broadening its initiatives, to allow for the participation of civil society groups and non-governmental organizations, and building stronger partnerships with ECA, the World Bank, and the United Nations system.

10. The Government, in recognition of the need to continue the demobilization process and improve the calibre of its security apparatus, proposed a restructuring programme for the armed forces. So far, the programme has received little interest from donors, and the Government has proceeded with implementing aspects of it using its own meagre resources. In the third quarter of 1999, the Government brought some 12,000 ex-combatants onto the public-sector payroll, as an interim measure to promote internal stability. To complement these efforts, UNDP is providing support for strengthening the Liberia National Police, focusing on training and the provision of non-lethal logistical assistance.

11. UNDP continued to support the promotion of good governance through its project executed by the Department of Social and Economic Affairs, United Nations Secretariat. It is also supporting the rebuilding of Government's capacity for sound and coordinated economic management through support to five key institutions under a complementary project executed by the United Nations, Secretariat Office of Project Services. In its medium-term strategy, the Government has prioritized macroeconomic stability through a sound fiscal regime, the development of a functioning monetary and financial system, and maintaining a low-inflation environment. UNDP supports these efforts through well-placed assistance within the context of its two projects and through continuous upstream policy dialogue.

12. The Government made efforts to reopen courts nationwide, organized public debates on judicial reform, established a judicial reform commission, and adopted a code of ethics for judges. The lack of adequate resources has seriously hampered efforts to improve living and working conditions for judges. The Government of the United States and UNDP are providing training and basic logistical assistance for the re-establishment of the rule of law. Assistance is also being provided to the national legislature, through training interventions, to enhance the understanding of their role and responsibility in the context of a system for democratic governance.

13. Assistance programmes at the community level are moving from largely short-term humanitarian assistance to more substantive areas of rehabilitation, reconstruction and development. The major implementing partners for United Nations agencies have been non-governmental organizations. In view of the proliferation of such organizations in the country, the Government and the United Nations system commissioned a capacity assessment study by non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations to determine their absorptive capacity and the additional support that would be required to promote local ownership and build capacity for implementing development projects. The study identified the poor state of the national infrastructure and the declining flow of resources as the two major obstacles to delivery of assistance. Nevertheless, it took note of the groundswell of initiatives at the town and village level, signifying the willingness and commitment of ordinary Liberians to rebuilding their

lives. The study also dealt with coordination issues and identified bottlenecks at the national, sectoral, and local levels, pointing clearly to the need for a structure that is both horizontal and vertical and that will take into consideration the need to harmonize national policies and priorities and build complementarity across sectors. Non-governmental organizations were ranked into three categories, largely on the basis of their internal governance, impact of their programmes on the beneficiaries, and location of headquarters (external/internal). Recommendations were made for capacity-strengthening on the basis of the ranking. In these respects, useful information has been provided for evolving a more effective system by the Government and the United Nations system for coordinating and facilitating the participation of non-governmental organizations in the post-conflict recovery and reconstruction process and for improving the channelling of resources in support of the priorities identified in the National Reconstruction Programme.

14. Rebuilding the capacity of civil society, which remains the wellspring of social capital, has also been supported by the United Nations system. Civil society organizations sustained their activities in Liberia during 1999. Most of the activities were seen as complementary to the efforts of governmental institutions and donors to provide basic services and protect rights. Most civil society organizations are church-related or professional associations. UNICEF supported the establishment of an Eminent Persons Group to advocate for children. The group is comprised of well-known, influential leaders from within and outside the Government, from the political arena and the private sector. The group plays a critical role in keeping children's issues high on the national agenda.

15. The United Nations theme groups and the Development Forum provided a medium for promoting a culture of free exchange of ideas and best practices in all areas of development and informing the policy-making process through debates on development issues. Similarly, the Good Governance Forum, supported by UNDP, brought together Liberians of diverse opinions to discuss issues relevant to good governance in Liberian society, thus enabling them better to understand each other's point of view, foster a culture of tolerance, and find common solutions to problems facing society.

IV. Macroeconomic performance

16. Immediately after its inauguration, the Government initiated bold measures aimed at macroeconomic reform and stabilization. They have resulted in a sharp reduction in the budget deficit, containment of inflationary pressures, and a streamlining of the monetary situation. Some progress has been made in restoring confidence in the financial system through the establishment of a full-fledged central bank and improvements in the regulatory and incentive structure for private investors. These reforms are being implemented in the context of an International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff-monitored programme which is contributing to the recovery in economic growth, the rekindling of private-sector confidence, and the rebuilding of relations with the Bretton Woods institutions.

17. Domestic production continues to increase but is still at only about one third of the pre-war level. Provisional data suggest a real GDP growth of 25-30 per cent in 1998 and 20–25 per cent in 1999. The growth is led by the agricultural sector where, by FAO estimates, the production of many of the food crops — notably rice and cassava (manioc) — has reached 70-75 per cent of the pre-war level. With the general improvement in food security, based on increased domestic production, the need for general food aid has been considerably reduced. There have also been sizeable increases in cash crop (rubber, coffee, cocoa) and timber production. Nevertheless, the informal sector continues to be the major source of income generation in urban areas, while subsistence farming activities provide livelihood for the rural populace.

18. With regard to foreign trade, the imbalance continues to be considerable despite the decline in the importation of humanitarian aid commodities. In United States dollar terms, exports grew by 70 per cent in 1998 and 30 per cent in 1999. This has been led largely by the increase in rubber and timber exports, accounting for 95 per cent of the country's export earnings. Imports fell significantly, by nearly 34 per cent, in 1998 with the transition from the humanitarian assistance phase and grew by only 4 per cent in 1999. Provisional figures indicate a trade deficit of $112 million in 1999, which is 25 per cent of GDP. The deficit was financed largely by grant assistance, private transfers, and foreign investment capital.

V. Humanitarian assistance/ resettlement, repatriation, and reintegration

19. The complexity of the Liberian situation requires the building-up of synergies between humanitarian efforts and developmental efforts to support sustained peace. While humanitarian assistance has been forthcoming, donors have been reluctant to support development activities, owing to their concern about residual but persisting security and governance problems. The November 1999 multi-donor mission recognized the need for flexibility in the allocation and use of resources in order to achieve the twin goals of ensuring consistency with the requirements of the NRP and ensuring an efficient transition from relief to sustainable development. Regrettably, few follow-up actions have been undertaken, due to continuing poor relations between the Government and its major international partners.

20. The Liberia Refugee, Repatriation, and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) continued its efforts to repatriate refugees in the subregion and to resettle internally displaced persons, with assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), and other United Nations agencies as well as various local and international non-governmental organizations. More that 36,800 internally displaced persons were relocated in 1999 from occupied structures in the centre of Monrovia to their towns and villages of origin in the west and south-east of the country, with significant support from the United Nations agencies and the Government of Sweden. Family resettlement kits, comprised of handtools and basic shelter construction materials, were distributed.

21. A total of 126,880 refugees have been assisted by UNHCR, in collaboration with WFP, the European Union, and various local and international partners, to return home voluntarily. The Government of the United States provided significant support to the operations of WFP. The United Nations system, in collaboration with the Government, provided basic facilities and services, including health care and primary education opportunities, to facilitate reintegration. The special needs of children were addressed by UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Save the Children (United Kingdom).

22. UNHCR's resettlement and reintegration activities will phase out in June 2000. Neither the Government nor the other United Nations system agencies are fully prepared to take over its activities. The challenge is to identify mechanisms to ensure continuity of the ongoing reintegration activities. Of the existing caseload of approximately 176,000 Liberian refugees in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, approximately 112,000 will remain exiled after the phasing out of activities. Furthermore, Liberia provides asylum for over 90,000 Sierra Leonean refugees, the bulk of which are sheltering in areas bordering the two countries. In collaboration with the Government and other United Nations system agencies, UNHCR provides shelter materials, household items, food, health care, education, water and sanitation facilities and protection.

VI. Health

23. In reproductive health, UNFPA and UNICEF are jointly supporting a two-year (1999-2000) project aimed at the revitalization of basic and reproductive health services, including family planning and sexual health, in seven counties. Additionally, WHO, UNICEF, and UNFPA are collaborating with the Government and United States-based non-governmental organization Africare in a nationwide safe motherhood needs assessment. This will lead to the development of a three-year plan within the framework of a reproductive health programme. UNDP and the World Health Organization (WHO) are supporting the development of a national health policy, which will provide a coherent frame of reference for the revitalization of the health sector.

24. The United Nations system, particularly WHO and UNICEF, supported the Government in the implementation of national immunization days for polio eradication. The campaign provided 100 per cent coverage of children under five. WHO, UNICEF, and UNDP supported the construction of water and sanitation facilities and training in public health education at the community level throughout the country.

25. WHO, UNDP and the Government conducted an HIV/AIDS situation analysis and developed a strategic plan for Liberia, which was adopted by the United Nations theme group on HIV/AIDS. In collaboration with UNICEF and UNDP, UNFPA and WHO provided

support for the strengthening of the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP). Condoms were supplied nationwide as part of awareness-raising activities for safe sex practices and family planning. Epidemiological surveillance helped determine the prevalence of HIV/AIDS. From 1986, when the first AIDS case was reported, to 1988, 243 cases were confirmed. During 1998, the HIV prevalence rate rose to 4.5 per cent, with the highest rate noted among the age group 20-29 (5.2 per cent). Gender-disaggregated data revealed higher infection rates in females than in males tested in 1998 — 7 per cent and 3.3 per cent respectively. Nevertheless, the overall trend shows a decline in reported prevalence from 7.1 per cent in 1997 to 4.5 per cent in 1998. This holds true across all age groups, geographical locations, patient categories (with the exception of visa applicants), levels of education, and occupations. These rates are believed to be underestimated since the years of conflict masked the magnitude of the problem, and selection bias, misdiagnosis, and underreporting undermined the quality of the results.

26. Technical and logistical support was provided to facilitate the extension of blood safety and public awareness activities into rural Liberia and to enable the participation of community-based organizations in HIV/AIDS prevention and in caring for people living with HIV/AIDS. Two United Nations Volunteers (an epidemiologist and an IEC trainer) were recruited for the NACP. The President of Liberia presided over the World Aids Day celebrations, during which he reaffirmed the country's commitment to combat HIV/AIDS and established the National Commission on HIV/AIDS. WHO, UNDP and UNFPA supported the celebrations by providing logistics for HIV/AIDS awareness activities, including the production of a programme in 16 local languages for distribution to people in rural areas. Despite these efforts, there is still a low level of interest among the general population on the HIV/AIDS problem. The NACP lacks adequate resources for a sustained effort aimed at awareness-raising and only a tiny fraction of the health facilities in the country have HIV testing capacity.

VII. Education

27. The Government was assisted in launching a number of key initiatives in the education sector, such as an accelerated learning programme for over-age children who had been out of school during the years of conflict, a girl's education survey, and a mass literacy campaign. The provision and the distribution of textbooks and teacher-training support were complemented by the physical renovation of schools by UNDP. Close linkages were forged with the Government and between UNICEF and UNESCO in the area of education policy development; UNICEF and UNHCR in teacher training; and UNICEF and WFP in the school food programme, under which 800,000 primary and secondary children from 1,400 schools in nine counties in Liberia and 15,000 teachers and school support staff benefited. In collaboration with UNICEF and other agencies, WFP also supported the provision of vocational education and other skills-training activities by distributing food assistance to an average of 4,000 trainees per month under their Food for Training Programme.

VIII. Community revival and restoration

28. Community revival and restoration activities centre around the provision of basic social services and income. The United Nations system and the donor community assisted the Government in rehabilitating 230 health clinics, 14 hospitals and 13 health centres out of a pre-war total of 330 clinics, 31 hospitals, and 54 health centres. A total of 135 schools have been renovated in nine of the 13 counties with assistance from the United Nations. Local artisans and tradesmen were used in the rehabilitation effort, thus creating employment for approximately 9,000 persons. Notwithstanding these achievements, basic social service delivery is still well below the pre-war level, with a significant proportion of the population lacking access to a regular supply of safe drinking water and to health, education, and sanitation facilities. Adult literacy stands at 35 per cent and net enrolment at the primary and secondary levels stands at approximately 42 per cent, compared to 46 for sub-Saharan Africa.

29. Microfinance (microgrants and microcredit) assistance and skills training opportunities have reached approximately 35,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries. In view of the widespread destruction of the housing stock, UNDP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) launched a project to upgrade skills in rural housing construction and town/village planning. The project aims to

construct 1,000 demonstration units in 4 of the 13 counties, using mostly improved locally available housing construction materials. The project will also promote cooperative development in the production of low-cost housing materials.

IX. Food security

30. FAO and WFP, in support of the Government's initiatives, distributed seeds, tools and seed protection rations to 29,800 farmers. The production of rice and cassava, the two main staple crops, had risen to over 70 per cent and almost 100 per cent, respectively, of the pre-war level, compared to 25 per cent and 50 per cent, respectively, in 1995. However, it should be noted that Liberia was only 70 per cent self-sufficient in rice production in pre-war times.

31. FAO, with support from UNDP, assisted the Ministry of Agriculture to formulate a framework document for the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS). This was followed by a development-oriented project, SPFS: Water Control and Intensification Components, funded through the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme. The United States, the European Union, Japan and Canada were the major contributors of 27,824 metric tons of assorted food commodities, including cereals, pulses, oils, a corn/soya blend, sugar and salt, delivered by WFP and its partners to an average monthly caseload of 250,748 beneficiaries.

X. Gender concerns

32. As reflected in the NRP and various policy papers, the Government is committed to promoting women's advancement and gender equality in Liberia. The United Nations Theme Group on Gender assisted the Government in preparing the Liberia country report to the special session of the General Assembly held five years after the Fourth World Conference on Women and in developing a strategic framework for the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Most United Nations agencies paid particular and deliberate attention to gender mainstreaming in their country programmes, addressing issues such as eliminating discriminatory laws and socio-cultural practices against women and girls, banning the establishment of secret societies near refugee camps in Liberia, promoting education for the girl child, promoting adolescent and women's health and reproductive health, and training in income-generating skills. In collaboration with other United Nations agencies, UNFPA helped to strengthen the secretariat and activities of the Liberia chapter of the Federation of African Women Educationalists (FAWE). The involvement of women in United Nations projects and programmes was promoted in an effort to advance the empowerment of women. FAO ensured that rural women's groups and non-governmental organizations were involved as implementing partners, and as a result, on average, 60 per cent of the beneficiaries in FAO-funded projects were women. WFP supported projects specifically aimed at the empowerment of women.

33. Although significant progress has been made in raising awareness and mainstreaming gender internally and through United Nations-supported programmes, much more remains to be done towards insuring gender equality in Liberia. One of the main constraints has been the limited follow-up capacity within the United Nations system and Government. UNDP (through a project executed by the United Nations (Secretariat) Office for Project Services) and UNIFEM, with support form the theme group on gender, have been assisting women's groups and the Government to undertake advocacy activities and to sensitize and train public officials and opinion leaders in various aspects of gender mainstreaming and empowerment.

XI. Major challenges facing the country

34. The Abuja II extended peace agreement (1996), which led to the election of the current Government, was a product of compromise and international pressures after the military stalemate. The country's major challenge is consolidating the peace and addressing problems emanating from the conflict and the social disparity and ethnic divisions that fueled the conflict. The needs of a significant proportion of the demobilized combatants, former child combatants, and the war-wounded have not been adequately addressed. In the face of the subregional security situation, the presence of a large number of unemployed youth and former combatants in urban areas continues to pose a threat to long-term stability.

35. While the return of growth is encouraging, the economic base is at only one third of its pre-war level. This is inadequate to ensure a sustainable impact on the poverty situation, which is also a threat to long-term stability. United Nations efforts to support the revitalization of the basic social safety net for the population have been further constrained by declining resources. The situation is made even more complex by the low-level of interest in democratization, including accountability in governing institutions, transparency, and the adherence to the rule of law. Adherence to the principles of separation of powers into three distinct branches of Government (legislative, judiciary, executive), as prescribed by the organic laws of Liberia, has still to be achieved.

XII. Recommendations for action by the General Assembly

36. There is dire need for greater recognition of the post-conflict challenges facing Liberia and the subregion within the international community in general and among the major donors in particular. The subregional dimension to the conflict should be acknowledged and should lead to the regeneration of support for the peace-building process in Liberia. It is therefore recommended that the General Assembly reaffirm its resolution 53/1, expressing gratitude to ECOWAS, the major donor countries, and the Bretton Woods institutions for their continuing efforts towards building sustainable peace in the subregion and calling for further support for the rehabilitation and reconstruction effort in Liberia, while reaffirming its support for the United Nations system collaboration and dialogue with the Government of Liberia in the fields of human rights, national reconciliation, peace-building, and strengthening of the rule of law.

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Item 1 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Requests from non-governmental organizations for hearings

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

1. At its 763rd meeting, on 23 June 1999, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, acting in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, had before it requests from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council for hearings by the Council in connection with the items on the Council's agenda for its substantive session of 2000.

2. The Committee decided to recommend that the following organizations be heard under the agenda items indicated:

(a) Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative relationship with the United Nations (CONGO), coalition of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, to be heard during the high-level segment on behalf of the following three non-governmental organizations:

Population Communication International

World Information Transfer

Association féminine tunisie 21

Item 2 (Development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy)

(b) International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres and International Movement ATD Fourth World

* E/2000/100.

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Item 4 (a) (Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes: assessment of the progress made within the United Nations system, through the conference reviews, in the promotion of an integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields)

(c) International Movement ATD Fourth World and NGO Committee on Human Settlements, in consultative status with the Council, on behalf of the association of the following non-governmental organizations:

Commonwealth Human Ecology Council

International Architects Designers Planners for Social Responsibility

International Council for Caring Communities

International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres

International Federation of Surveyors

International Real Estate Federation

International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade

Olof Palme Peace Foundation

Rotary International

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

World Information Transfer

World Psychiatric Association

Item 4 (b) (Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes: coordinated implementation by the United Nations system of the Habitat Agenda)

(d) International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies

Item 5: (Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance)

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Item 14 (g) of the provisional agenda*
Social and human rights questions: human rights

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Economic and Social Council

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993.

2. This first year of the new millennium is the occasion for a number of major conferences whose aim is to review progress in a broad range of areas. Review conferences are taking stock of progress made since the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women. Preparations are under way for a special session of the General Assembly to review the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children. The Millennium Summit will address the role of the United Nations in the twentieth century. Each of these conferences has a strong human rights dimension; each offers the opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved and to consider how to improve strategies in the field of universal human rights.

3. The past year has been marked by a trend which could be said to sum up the human rights story: positive developments in legislative and other fields and, at the same time, numerous instances of serious human rights violations. Over the past 12 months grave violations of human rights have been reported in East Timor, Kosovo, Sierra Leone and Chechnya, to name only some of the most severe conflict situations. The report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/1999/957) paints a sorry picture of murder and ill-treatment. Violations of human rights have also been numerous outside conflict situations. Arbitrary killings, detentions, executions, mass displacement of peoples — all have been frequent occurrences. Attacks on human rights defenders continue to be commonplace, as do assaults on the independence of judges and the media.

4. On the positive side, some significant legislative advances have been made. The adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child — one on children in armed conflict, the other on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography — is proof of the international community's continuing commitment to strengthening the legal base for human rights protection. The decision of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 2000/61, to request the Secretary-General to appoint a special representative to monitor the implementation of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms is a further welcome development.

5. A key message that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is seeking to convey is the importance of putting greater emphasis on preventive strategies in our approach to human rights. Prevention was the theme of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2000/12 and Add.1) and speeches and statements have emphasized prevention. As the report to the Commission showed, prevention is multifaceted. Preventive strategies include monitoring of human rights situations, building national and regional capacities in the field of human rights, ensuring accountability and strengthening economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development. The last aspect is of particular significance at a time when the achievements of Beijing and Copenhagen are being reviewed and when the Commission has decided to appoint new special rapporteurs on the right to food (resolution 2000/10) and on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living (resolution 2000/9).

6. One preventive strategy that will be receiving special attention during the coming year is the fight against racism and racial discrimination. The third World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, which will be held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 6 September 2001, will provide the opportunity to make a thorough inventory of the achievements to date in combating the scourge of racism and the challenges that still face us today. Racism and xenophobia are at the roots of most conflicts. They remain potent forces in our societies and have proved stubbornly resistant to efforts to drive them out. Preparing for the World Conference, drawing input from the different regions and devising new ways of fighting racism and xenophobia will be an important test for the human rights movement during the coming year.

II. Commission on Human Rights

7. At its fifty-sixth session, the Commission on Human Rights approved the report of the inter-sessional open-ended working group on enhancing the effectiveness of the mechanisms of the Commission in its entirety (decision 2000/109), and, in so doing, agreed to recommendations aimed at rationalizing the work of the Commission in the immediate future and also in the longer term.

8. The Commission, in its resolution 2000/87, recommended to the Economic and Social Council the establishment of a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as an advisory body to the Council. This is a welcome initiative, which will provide much needed expert advice to the Council about a particularly vulnerable group. It will also contribute to the coordination of activities relating to indigenous people within the United Nations system. As the office responsible for coordinating the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is encouraged by this development and committed to supporting its realization.

9. In the area of thematic mandates, in addition to the three new mandates on food, housing and human rights defenders referred to above, the Commission extended the mandates of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (resolution 2000/36), the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (resolution 2000/42) and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (resolution 2000/45) by three years.

10. While the Commission continued to give impetus to strengthening economic, social and cultural rights, it also emphasized the importance of promoting and consolidating democracy (resolution 2000/47) and broke new ground in addressing the role of good governance in the promotion of human rights (resolution 2000/64). During the special debate on poverty and the enjoyment of human rights held during the fifty-sixth session, there was repeated insistence that all human rights — civil, cultural, economic, political and social — were at stake in situations of poverty.

11. At its fifty-sixth session, the Commission on Human Rights considered reports by its 19 thematic rapporteurs, representatives and chairpersons of working groups. Most of the mandate-holders, in addition to their annual reports, submitted reports prepared following fact-finding missions to various countries. Among others, the Commission had before it the report on the joint mission to East Timor undertaken by the Special Rapporteurs on torture, extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and on violence against women, its causes and consequences, which was carried out pursuant to the resolution adopted by the Commission at its fourth special session on the situation in East Timor, the report on East Timor by the International Commission of Inquiry and reports by the various thematic mandate-holders on visits to Afghanistan, Albania, Belgium, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Fiji, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Romania, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela.

III. World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

12. The General Assembly decided to convene the World Conference against Racism and Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance not later than the year 2001, and defined the objectives and the guidelines for the preparatory process of the World Conference in resolution 52/111. At its fifty-fourth session, the Assembly, in resolution 54/154, established that the Commission on Human Rights would act as the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference; requested the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to make every effort to ensure the mobilization of resources for the voluntary fund for the World Conference; and called upon the High Commissioner to help States and regional organizations, on request, to convene national and regional meetings or to undertake other initiatives to prepare for the World Conference.

13. The Commission, in its omnibus resolution on racism (resolution 2000/14), welcomed the offer by the Government of South Africa to host the World Conference; decided to appoint an 11-member bureau for the two sessions of the Preparatory Committee, consisting of two representatives per regional group, plus a representative of the host country as an ex officio member; and invited Governments to promote

the participation of national institutions and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the preparatory process and in regional meetings. It also encouraged all parliaments to participate actively in the preparation of the World Conference through the relevant international organizations.

14. The Preparatory Committee for the World Conference held its first session in Geneva from 1 to 5 May 2000. It accepted the invitation to hold the World Conference in South Africa from 31 August to 7 September 2001 and adopted the slogan: "United to Combat Racism: Equality, Justice, Dignity" for the World Conference. The Preparatory Committee invited the High Commissioner to draw up a draft declaration and programme of action for the World Conference and to transmit it to the inter-sessional open-ended working group it established to consider the framework for the provisional agenda for the World Conference; and adopted three decisions concerning participation by NGOs in the preparatory process and the World Conference itself.

15. This marked the formal start of the Conference process, though a number of useful informal meetings had already taken place in different parts of the world. In her capacity as Secretary-General of the Conference, the High Commissioner for Human Rights is organizing a number of regional expert seminars within the framework of the Conference in cooperation with the United Nations regional economic commissions and with the Government of Poland. These include:

A seminar for the Central and Eastern European region in Warsaw, from 5 to 7 July 2000, entitled "The protection of minorities and other vulnerable groups and strengthening human rights capacity at the national level";

A seminar for the Asian region in Bangkok, from 5 to 7 September 2000, entitled "Migrant workers and human rights capacity at the national level";

A seminar for the African region in Addis Ababa, from 4 to 6 October 2000, entitled "Preventing ethnic and racial conflicts";

A seminar for the Latin American region in Santiago, from 25 to 27 October 2000, entitled "Economic, social and legal measures to overcome racial discrimination, with particular reference to vulnerable groups".

16. In addition, the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Senegal have offered to host, respectively, the Asian and the African regional preparatory meetings. The dates and venues of these meetings, as well as that of the Latin American and Caribbean regional preparatory meeting, are still to be decided.

17. As the High Commissioner for Human Rights pointed out in her opening address to the Preparatory Committee, the World Conference has the potential to be among the most significant international gatherings taking place at the start of this century. It can be more: it can shape and embody the spirit of the new century, based on the shared conviction that everyone is a member of the human family. The challenge is to make the World Conference a landmark in the struggle to eradicate all forms of racism. A main focus of the two previous World Conferences against Racism was the fight against apartheid. That struggle had almost universal support. But even as success in abolishing apartheid was achieved, it has become apparent that racism, discrimination, xenophobia and bigotry are worldwide phenomena, more deeply rooted and more virulent than had been supposed.

18. In examining the roots of racism and xenophobia in the modern world, the importance of the economic dimension is immediately apparent. The gulf between the rich and the very large numbers who live in dire poverty is widening all the time. Some people enjoy the luxury of a high standard of living, freedom from hunger, adequate housing and education and high-quality health care. Others experience extreme poverty, lack of safe water, insufficient funds to treat deadly diseases such as AIDS and high levels of illiteracy, especially among women and children.

19. While some are aware of this gulf and attempt to bridge it, many prefer to adopt a fortress mentality, determined to defend their prosperity against perceived external threats. This is a trend that has become increasingly ugly, with xenophobic undertones. There is a tendency to demonize those who travel to rich societies in search of a better life. Migrants are exploited and blamed for economic ills that have nothing to do with them. Refugees, displaced persons and asylum-seekers in search of safety are treated harshly and, more and more often, turned away.

20. It is especially worrying that the fortress mentality is assuming global dimensions. The impact

of globalization on racism and xenophobia is an appropriate subject for the World Conference to consider. Globalization can achieve economies of scale which increase companies' profits. The danger is that unless the international community acts now to ensure that the benefits of the information revolution and open markets are more widely shared, globalization will become another barrier to poorer countries participating fully in the international economy.

21. The international community faces a fundamental choice here: a world with two vastly differing parts, one with ever-increasing wealth and technological sophistication, the other where people live in abject poverty, or a world that embraces the idea that we are all in this together as members of one human family, with entitlements to economic, social and cultural rights that need to be progressively implemented. This latter option regards diversity as strength, not weakness, and recognizes the great social, cultural, and even economic benefits of a multicultural society.

22. Governments have a particular responsibility and duty when it comes to fighting racism, xenophobia, discrimination and intolerance. Relations between different races and ethnic groups within society are a highly sensitive issue and officials in uniform, whether police, military or prison staff, need to be adequately trained. The political community should at all times lead public opinion, not play the race card or pander to those who claim they feel threatened by people they regard as different.

23. During the meetings of the Preparatory Committee, Governments were urged to make a complete inventory of their records in combating racism and discrimination and to resolve to do better. Expressions of goodwill and good intentions are one thing, but these will be of no consequence unless they are matched by resolute action. Strategies that have produced positive results must be identified and replicated and a strong follow-up mechanism to the World Conference put in place to determine whether Governments have delivered on their promises.

24. Everyone who can help to fight racism has a role to play in the World Conference. Members of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and the media all have much to contribute. The Conference should have the broadest possible involvement of civil society and engage the attention and interest of all citizens, young and old. The responsibility for making this happen lies with Governments and regional bodies, and also with NGOs. At the national level, Governments should raise awareness among their citizens, of all ages, including through schools and youth clubs, and should promote active participation in national preparations. The whole United Nations system of organizations, funds, programmes and specialized agencies is being mobilized to address the issues of the World Conference.

25. The Preparatory Committee adopted the following themes to be included in the provisional agenda for the World Conference:

1. Sources, causes, forms and contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

2. Victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

3. Measures of prevention, education and protection aimed at the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

4. Provision of effective remedies, recourse, redress, [compensatory][1] and other measures at the national, regional and international levels.

5. Strategies to achieve full and effective equality, including international cooperation and enhancement of the United Nations and other international mechanisms in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

IV. Human rights, social development and the human rights of women

26. Since 1989 the United Nations has focused attention, through major conferences and high-level meetings, on a number of subjects of significant importance in the social arena, including the welfare of children, human rights, social development and women. At those conferences important progress was made in recognizing human rights. The standards adopted together provide a clear statement of the common human rights heritage, which must be carefully preserved and extended for present and future generations. The following sections deal with some of

the human rights dimensions of the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women and the follow-up process to those conferences within the context of the present review exercises.

A. World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen+5)

27. The World Summit for Social Development and the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the Summit established a new consensus to place people at the centre of concerns for sustainable development and pledged to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all. Two years earlier the core message of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights had been the affirmation that development, democracy and human rights are interrelated and interdependent. Each of the 10 commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration has its own human rights elements and relevance, which merit separate consideration.

Creating an enabling environment for development

28. Human rights are central to a concept of development that is people-centred, participatory and environmentally sound. This concept stresses not just economic growth, but equitable distribution, enhancement of people's capabilities and enlargement of their choices. It gives highest priority to eliminating poverty, integrating women in the development process, self-reliance and self-determination of people and Governments, including respect for the rights of indigenous people. This complements the definition of development provided by the Declaration on the Right to Development. In the context of discussions within the United Nations on the right to development, Member States are seeking to define the elements of an effectively enabling environment which respects particularities. Significant progress has been made in recent years on the question of the right to development. This is perhaps most evident within the Commission on Human Rights, with the establishment of an open-ended working group on the right to development, and the appointment of an independent expert with a mandate to study the current state of progress in the implementation of the right to development. The conceptual approach of the independent expert, recognizing the complex and multifaceted nature of the right to development, is to sample the three core elements of the rights to food, to primary health care and to primary education and to consider both the national obligations of States and the global obligations of the international community.

29. The elements of an enabling environment on the national level have been dealt with by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which has noted that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights includes, in its article 2, an undertaking "to take steps ... by all appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures". While this neither requires nor precludes any particular form of government or economic system, it does require that the system be democratic and that all human rights be respected thereby. The Committee has underlined the fact that, even in times of severe resource constraints, whether caused by a process of adjustment, economic recession or other factors, the vulnerable members of society can, and indeed must be, protected by the implementation of appropriate programmes.

30. The concept of good governance has also found greater clarity as a result of the work of the Commission on Human Rights. The resolution adopted at its last session in April 2000 identified the key attributes of good governance to be transparency, responsibility, accountability, participation and responsiveness. It expressly linked good governance to an enabling environment conducive to the enjoyment of human rights and to the promotion of growth and sustainable human development. In underscoring the importance of development cooperation for securing good governance in countries in need of external support, the resolution recognizes the value of partnership approaches to development cooperation and the inappropriateness of prescriptive approaches.

31. The global enabling environment for development has also been reviewed. Globalization may bring important benefits to millions of people in all regions, but it is equally clear that inequality is growing and larger numbers of the world's population are failing to reap a share of the benefits. This rapidly evolving context makes all the more urgent the need to find rights-based solutions to underdevelopment and poverty by linking change to the international human

rights framework, thus ensuring that the poor and excluded participate in development and that they benefit from it.

32. The need to encourage faster, broader and deeper debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries is central to building an enabling environment for development. In recognition of this fact, the Commission on Human Rights established the mandate of a Special Rapporteur on foreign debt in 1998. The Special Rapporteur has emphasized the link between debt relief and social investment.

33. Private business interests and corporations have become powerful actors in the shaping of not only the individual national economic environment but of the international order as well. Thus, at the 1999 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the Secretary-General launched the Global Compact, challenging business to support nine principles derived from universally agreed standards relating to human rights, labour and the environment. In 1999, the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights established a working group on the working methods and activities of transnational corporations to identify the national and international legal standards which apply to them, to elaborate principles of individual and collective responsibilities of transnational corporations and to consider the development of a code of conduct for transnational corporations based on human rights standards. The Subcommission has also appointed two experts as special rapporteurs to undertake a study on the issue of globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights.

Eradicating poverty

34. It has been more than 50 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaimed that everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living. Yet United Nations statistics reveal that the total number of people living on less than one dollar a day has risen to over 1.2 billion. Perhaps no social phenomenon is as comprehensive in its assault on human rights as poverty. It erodes or nullifies economic and social rights such as the rights to health, adequate housing, food and safe water and the right to education. Poverty has the same negative effect on civil and political rights, such as the rights to a fair trial, genuine elections and security of the person. That the particular and disproportionate victims of poverty are women, minorities, migrants, indigenous people and the peoples of Africa is undeniable.

35. We also know that many aspects of poverty are not reflected in the statistical indicators. Foremost are the subjective daily assaults on human dignity that accompany poverty. Poverty begets feelings of powerlessness, desperation and shame. The poor are subject to daily humiliation, abuse, rejection, exclusion and harassment. The poorest feel the unrelenting agony of chronic hunger, the suffering of untreated disease and the exposure of inadequate shelter. A recent World Bank study that based its findings upon perspectives gathered directly from people in poverty found that these factors are among those that have the most significant impact on their daily lives. This recognition of the fundamental importance of participation and empowerment to effective development strategies must be seen as a further indication of the necessity of a rights-based approach. The social exclusion of the poor and their lack of power in the face of insensitive local officials, corrupt institutions and inaccessible development decision makers point to the need for the creation of new mechanisms to ensure that the voices of the poor are heard and given authority in development.

36. The Commission's independent expert on extreme poverty has made several recommendations for action in solidarity with the world's poorest. She calls for a global alliance for the elimination of extreme poverty and the development of a universal strategy to that end. She points to the importance of careful assessment by international financial institutions of the social impact of their policies on the poorest. The independent expert lists a number of key elements of an effective battle against poverty, including strong political will, good governance and effective capacities at the national level, and more international solidarity and increased official development assistance (ODA) at the international level. The commitments made at Copenhagen underline the relevance of all these elements.

Realizing full and dignified employment

37. Full and dignified employment, in conformity with international workers' rights, including equal access for women and protection of the rights of minorities and migrant workers, is fundamental to human development, human dignity and human rights. There is now a wealth of detailed and legally binding

international norms and standards relating to workers' rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

38. Among those most vulnerable to abuses of labour rights are migrant workers. The promotion and protection of the rights of migrant workers is thus a particularly important step in achieving full and dignified employment for all. The international community adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in 1990. The Convention is an important step in protecting migrant workers and their families from exploitation and in bringing to an end the illegal and often exploitative movement of migrants. The Convention has not yet come into force and to date has been ratified by only 12 States.

39. Entry of the Convention into force will be an important step towards full and dignified employment and a global campaign has been undertaken by a coalition of NGOs and the United Nations to promote ratification of the Convention. In the meantime, the Commission on Human Rights has itself been instrumental in promoting the rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families. In 1999, the Commission appointed a Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants. In her first report to the Commission in April 2000, the Special Rapporteur focused on clarifying the definition of migrants and migrant workers and identifying those migrants with no or little protection, such as women and trafficked migrants. In April 2000, the Commission requested the Economic and Social Council to consider the possibility of recommending that 18 December be designated as "International Migrants Day".

Promoting social integration and non-discrimination

40. Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights sets forth the principle that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Trends in human development reveal violations of this most fundamental human rights principle as well. Overall, global inequality is getting worse, with the ratio between the average income of the world's richest 5 per cent and that of the poorest 5 per cent having increased from 78:1 in 1988 to 123:1 in 1993. Social integration, identified by the Copenhagen Declaration as a key process of social development, has many enemies. Internal conflict, discrimination, intolerance and impunity are powerful and still widespread barriers to sustainable human development. In order to overcome these barriers, action must be taken to promote human rights, democracy, the rule of law, non-discrimination and the protection of vulnerable groups, including minorities, migrants and indigenous people.

Achieving gender equality

41. Under commitment 5 of the Copenhagen Declaration, the international community pledged to promote gender equality, including through the protection of the human rights of women at both the national and international levels and through the promotion of the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In a world where the majority of people living in poverty are women, and where women account for two thirds of the illiterate adult population of developing countries, that commitment has yet to be met. Further information on gender equality is set out below in the section dealing with the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Attaining universal and equitable access to education and health

42. Exercising the right to education can be an effective way to escape from the grip of poverty. The Commission on Human Rights has appointed a Special Rapporteur on the right to education who is working to promote social development through education, with a special emphasis on elaborating the crucial legal components of that right, identifying financial obstacles and considering the right to education from a gender perspective. She has stressed in her reports that the realization of the right to education may be seen not only as a catalyst for the realization of all other rights, but also as a vehicle for achieving social development. Not surprisingly, she identifies the principal threat as poverty, its impact on education is likely to be significant but is as yet unpredictable and she warns that education cannot be expected to lead to poverty eradication before education itself is rescued from poverty.

43. Both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognize the right to health. The Commission on Human Rights has given special attention to the issue of health including the impact of toxic waste on the right to health, the use of traditional and customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, the rights of disabled persons, HIV/AIDS and development, drinking water, sanitation and the right to health, as well as bioethics and human rights.

44. Today, there is increasing clarity with regard to the practical content of the right to health and its normative implications. In May 2000, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted a general comment on the right to health,[2] which serves to clarify the normative content of the right to health, as well as requirements for national implementation, the obligations of various actors, including non-State actors, and violations of the right to health. The general comment states that the right to health is closely related to and dependent on the realization of other human rights, including the rights to food, work, housing, education, human dignity, life, non-discrimination, equality, protection against torture, privacy and access to information, as well as the freedoms of association, assembly and movement. The Committee recognizes that for millions of people throughout the world, the full enjoyment of the right to health remains a distant goal and underlines the important role of United Nations agencies and programmes in cooperating, including with States as well as civil society, to promote and protect the right to health.

Accelerating development in Africa and the least developed countries

45. While much work in Africa and the least developed countries has focused on humanitarian action, disaster relief and conflict resolution, the international human rights community is also launching some key strategies to assist the development of African and least developed countries. Sadly, to date, the effect of development activities in these countries has not matched the enormity of the problems at hand. For Africa, the many barriers to sustainable social development and secure human rights include the HIV/AIDS epidemic, staggering foreign debt, armed conflict, humanitarian disasters and crises.

46. The United Nations Programme of Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights promotes development by cooperating in specific projects in African and least developed countries at the request of national Governments. As the link between good governance, stability and increased investment becomes clearer, the Office of the High Commissioner is increasingly pursuing subregional strategies in Africa for building and strengthening human rights institutions and for assisting development agencies to integrate the promotion and protection of human rights into established programmes for development. The strategy involves the assignment of subregional human rights officers to advise Governments and United Nations development agencies on the integration of human rights into development assistance and development policy with a strong focus on the promotion of good governance. Pilot projects in southern Africa have been started with future projects expected in the Central African region.

Integrating social development goals in structural adjustment programmes

47. The United Nations has taken several important steps in providing a framework to assist States in meeting their commitment to ensure that structural adjustment programmes include social development goals and respect human rights. In 1997, the Commission on Human Rights appointed an independent expert to study the effects of structural adjustment policies on the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and their impact on development and established an open-ended working group on human rights and structural adjustment.

48. Structural adjustment has also been of particular concern to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in its examination of the reports of States parties to the Covenant. The Committee has recognized that adjustment programmes will often be unavoidable and frequently involve a major element of austerity and that every effort must be made in times of structural adjustment to ensure that the basic economic, social and cultural rights of the poorest and most disadvantaged sectors of the population are protected to the greatest extent possible. The Committee has also recommended that greater emphasis be placed by donor countries, within the framework of official development assistance, on supporting social adjustment programmes for purposes such as the financing of low-interest credit to the poorest farmers,

slum upgrading and other programmes for housing the poor.

Increasing and utilizing development resources more efficiently

49. Article 2 (1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights obliges each State party to take steps, not only individually, but also through international cooperation and assistance, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights. The Declaration on the Right to Development recognizes a collective international obligation to development and States have the duty to cooperate in eliminating obstacles to and achieving development. Simply increasing development resources will not be sufficient; they must also be made more effective and more efficient. In this regard, rights-based approaches offer important added value. Strengthening the institutions of governance and the rule of law is a vital way to maximize the efficient use of existing development resources and increase the confidence of donors, Governments and civil society in the development process.

Improving and strengthening the framework for cooperation

50. In the post-Copenhagen development debate, an important lesson is gaining recognition: rights-based approaches, in practical terms, produce better, more sustainable results. A rights-based approach to development is a conceptual framework for the process of human development that is normatively based on international human rights standards and operationally directed to promoting and protecting human rights. It begins by defining the objectives of development in terms of particular rights as legally enforceable entitlements and creates express links to international, regional and national human rights instruments. It also takes into consideration the full range of indivisible, interdependent and interrelated rights: civil, cultural, economic, political and social.

51. A rights-based approach focuses on raising levels of accountability in the development process by identifying claim-holders and corresponding duty-holders and on the development of adequate laws, policies, institutions, administrative procedures and practices. It also gives particular attention to discrimination and to vulnerable groups, among them women, minorities, indigenous people, prisoners and others.

52. The implications of a rights-based approach are now being explored in work on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and through the system-wide analysis by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of technical cooperation in the field of human rights, the official human rights guidelines for resident coordinators and, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the memorandum of understanding between UNDP and the Office of the High Commissioner, the task force and Human Rights Strengthening (HURIST) programme.

B. Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing+5)

53. The Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 was a landmark in the recognition of the human rights of women. The Beijing Platform built upon the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, explicitly reaffirmed that the human rights of women and of the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights, and established a number of specific strategic objectives to ensure that women enjoy their full human rights. It is important to maintain the standards relating to the human rights of women as the implementation of the promises made in Beijing proceeds.

54. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action proclaimed that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, which means that human rights must be the same everywhere and for everyone. Moreover, although national and regional particularities and historical, cultural and religious traditions need to be considered, it is the duty and the responsibility of States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems.

Equality

55. The international community has a duty to ensure the realization of equality among all human beings, men and women, as required by all international human rights instruments. The principle of equality is inherent

in the notion of human rights and should be a basis for their realization. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women requires, in article 1 not only that women should be accorded rights equal to those of men, that is, there should be no *de jure* discrimination, but also that women should be able to enjoy all their rights, which requires that other than legal obstacles be identified and eliminated. However, eliminating de facto discrimination is a much more complex and difficult task than enacting laws that recognize equal rights for all.

56. Women are entitled to the enjoyment of all human rights, including those relating to economic development and resources, as part of their equal entitlement to all human rights. Lack of equal access to resources and opportunities represents a denial of rights, which creates obstacles to equality between men and women and results in the perpetuation of women's economic inequality and poverty. The equal treatment of women in economic and social life is therefore a cornerstone for the full realization of these rights.

57. In March 2000, the Human Rights Committee gave its interpretation of article 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in its comprehensive General Comment No. 28 regarding the equal rights of men and women (CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.10). The Committee confirmed that gender equality is an overarching principle that applies to the enjoyment of all rights — civil, cultural, economic, political and social — and that the right to gender equality is not merely a right to non-discrimination. Affirmative action is required. States parties are under an obligation to take all necessary steps to enable every person to enjoy the rights provided for in the Covenant on an equal basis and in their totality. Such steps include the removal of obstacles to the equal enjoyment of such rights, the education of the population and of State officials in human rights and the adjustment of domestic legislation so as to give effect to the undertaking set forth in the Covenant.

58. The far-reaching implications of General Comment No. 28 are evident in the requirement that States parties must prohibit discrimination on the ground of sex and put an end to discriminatory actions both in the public and the private sector. In its concluding observations following the examination of States parties reports, the Human Rights Committee has repeatedly placed emphasis on the need to adopt appropriate measures to combat discrimination by non-State actors.

59. Also earlier this year, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination adopted General Comment 25 on gender-related dimensions of racial discrimination.[3] The Committee notes that racial discrimination does not always affect women and men equally or in the same way. There are circumstances in which racial discrimination only or primarily affects women, or affects women in a different way, or to a different degree, than men. Such racial discrimination will often escape detection if there is no explicit recognition or acknowledgment of the different life experiences of women and men in areas of both public and private life.

Reproductive health rights

60. The Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994 set out the content of reproductive rights and much of the language was incorporated into the Beijing Platform for Action. That Platform states: that good health is essential to leading a productive and fulfilling life and that the right of all women to control all aspects of their health, in particular their own fertility, is basic to their empowerment; and that the human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.

61. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has affirmed that access to health care, including reproductive health care, is a basic right under the Convention. The Human Rights Committee has stated that States parties should give information on any measures taken by the State to help women prevent unwanted pregnancies and to ensure that they do not have to undergo life-threatening clandestine abortions.

62. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, in her 1999 report to the Commission on Human Rights, stated that many forms of violence against women result in violations of women's reproductive rights because such violence often imperils their reproductive capacities and/or prevents them from exercising reproductive and sexual choices. Similarly, many reproductive rights

violations constitute violence against women per se; this is defined in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

63. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has systematically raised issues of reproductive and sexual rights of girls and has formulated recommendations regarding: legal ages for marriage that are seen to be too low or are lower for girls than for boys; legal age of consent for sexual relations that can be too low or lower for girls than for boys, and which can be linked to insufficient legal protection against sexual abuse and exploitation for girls deemed to be above the legal age of sexual consent; high rates of adolescent pregnancy and/or abortion; access to age-appropriate sex education through effective channels; the right of children to obtain medical advice and treatment, in accordance with their age and maturity, without parental consent; and greater vulnerability of girls to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Gender equality and property, land rights, inheritance

64. At its fifty-sixth session in March/April 2000, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 2000/13 on women's equal ownership of, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing. In that resolution the Commission affirmed that discrimination in law against women with respect to acquiring and securing land, property and housing, as well as financing for land, property and housing, constitutes a violation of women's human right to protection against discrimination. It urged Governments to design and revise laws to ensure that women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property and the right to adequate housing, including through the right to inheritance; and to undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies, access to markets and information.

65. The Commission has also encouraged Governments to support the transformation of customs and traditions that discriminate against women. It recommended that Governments encourage financial lending institutions to ensure that their policies and practices do not discriminate against women and recommended that international institutions, regional, national and local housing financing institutions and other credit facilities promote the participation of women, take their views into account and remove discriminatory policies and practices, giving special consideration to single women and households headed by women.

66. In her report to the fifty-sixth session of the Commission, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, reported on economic and social policy and its impact on violence against women. She noted that unequal ownership rights leave women dependent on men. In many countries there is no legal provision enabling women to own property. Under some traditional laws, women do not inherit land as it is assumed that a woman will marry and be provided for by her husband outside her community. Again, when her husband dies she will not inherit the land, as it will revert back to her husband's family. Widows are often left without means to support themselves financially or to obtain medical care and may be forced to leave their marital home. Where women receive property or funds, they may incur the anger of other family members and suffer from threats of or actual violence; some may even be killed. When women do not own land, they frequently are unable to obtain credit, even when they are legally permitted to do so, as land is required as collateral. Not being a full member of society in legal terms prevents female heads of household from being able to support their families. Formal housing might not be available or affordable and the family may be exposed to the vagaries of the informal housing sector. Married women who are legally and economically dependent on their husbands are also affected by this situation of powerlessness, as they have no access to the family's economic resources. In cases of domestic violence, the inability to live independently without a husband or father may prevent women from seeking safety outside the home.

Gender equality and the family

67. The Human Rights Committee affirms the principle of equality within the family. In General Comment No. 28, the Committee noted that States are required to treat men and women equally with regard to the right to marriage. Men and women have the right to

enter into marriage only with free and full consent. The Committee noted that many factors may prevent women from being able to make the decision to marry freely. One factor relates to the minimum age for marriage. That age should be set by the State on the basis of equal criteria for men and women. These criteria should ensure women's capacity to make an informed and uncoerced decision.

68. The Human Rights Committee pointed to a second factor. In some States, either by statutory or customary law, consent to marriage is given by a guardian, who is generally male, instead of by the woman herself. The existence of social attitudes which tend to marginalize women victims of rape and which put pressure on them to agree to marriage are incompatible with a woman's right under article 23 of the Covenant, as noted by the Committee in its general comments: "A woman's free and full consent to marriage may also be undermined by laws which allow the rapist to have his criminal responsibility extinguished or mitigated if he marries the victim". The Committee notes further that polygamy violates the dignity of women and should be abolished wherever it continues to exist.

69. Equality during marriage implies that husband and wife should participate equally in responsibility and authority within the family. States must also ensure equality in regard to the dissolution of marriage, which excludes the possibility of repudiation.

70. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, in her 1999 report to the Commission, noted that the State plays an important legal and moral role in family life, as well as an important role in determining the status, rights and remedies of individual family members. The Special Rapporteur noted that one of the primary ways in which dominant familial ideology affects women, as well as men, is through dictates on sexuality.

Trafficking in women and children

71. Trafficking is now recognized as a serious human rights issue, a special and global infringement of the human rights of women. Trafficking was a major issue at the fourth World Conference on Women and the Beijing Platform for Action reflects this. Although no definition has been agreed upon at the international level, the link between trafficking, forced prostitution and the violation of women's rights has been clearly established. An essential aspect is the recognition that, because of the core elements of coercion and exploitation, trafficking constitutes violence against women and, consequently, a violation of the human rights of the women concerned.

72. A consistent and concerted approach to trafficking requires a common understanding of the problem and general agreement on preferred approaches and solutions. The Office of the High Commissioner recognizes that trafficking is not a single event but a series of constitutive acts and circumstances implicating a wide range of actors. It is essential that anti-trafficking measures take account of this fact and that efforts be made to address the entire cycle of trafficking. This will involve improving the information base; ensuring an adequate legal framework and effective law enforcement; prevention, protection and support for trafficked persons; and cooperation and coordination between national, regional and international responses.

73. In developing detailed responses to each stage of the trafficking cycle, it is essential that certain basic policy principles guide and inform any anti-trafficking initiative. These principles must ensure a uniform adherence to a human rights-based approach and can also provide a means of measuring the success of anti-trafficking measures:

(a) **First**: The protection of the human rights and the dignity of trafficked persons must be given the highest priority;

(b) **Second**: Governments must accept responsibility for the problem of trafficking and for the development and implementation of appropriate responses. Trafficking is not a private wrong — this is an injustice that involves and implicates us all;

(c) **Third**: The definition of the term — trafficking — in laws, policies and programmes should not be restricted to sexual exploitation. It should be broad enough to cover other identified purposes without ambiguity, such as bonded or forced labour and other slavery-like practices. It should use child- and gender-sensitive language to signal that children and women are the people most vulnerable to trafficking;

(d) **Fourth**: Traffickers and their collaborators must be prosecuted and adequately penalized,

paying full attention to due process rights and without compromising the rights of the victims;

(e) **Fifth**: Trafficked persons should not be criminalized for the involuntary illegality of their entry to or residence in countries of transit and destination, or for the involuntary activities they perform as a consequence of their being trafficked;

(f) **Sixth**: Victims of trafficking, including those in an "irregular" immigration status, should be granted protection and necessary physical and mental care by the authorities of receiving countries;

(g) **Seventh**: Victims of trafficking should be provided legal and other assistance in the course of any criminal, civil and other actions against traffickers. Governments should be encouraged to provide temporary or permanent residence permits, safe shelter and adequate witness protection during legal proceedings;

(h) **Eighth**: The safe and, as far as possible, voluntary return of victims, instead of automatic repatriation, should be ensured, particularly in cases of organized criminal involvement;

(i) **Ninth**: Children should not be treated in the same way as adults in the identification, rescue and repatriation process. Children have special rights and special needs that must be recognized and protected;

(j) **Tenth**: efforts must be made to address the root causes of trafficking such as poverty, inequality, discrimination and racism.

74. The United Nations human rights programme is making a most important contribution to a fuller understanding of the human rights aspects of social development and the human rights of women, which strengthens the legitimacy of the calls for action, reinforces the accountability factor and describes more accurately the objectives sought. The rights-based approach is proving to be a powerful tool for progress and it will be important to future success for the human rights sector to work more closely with those promoting social development and the rights of women.

V. National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

75. Independent national human rights institutions play an important role in the promotion and protection of human rights and the Office of the High Commissioner has continued to mainstream national institutions in all its activities, including the treaty bodies and special mechanisms.

76. The Office of the High Commissioner continues to encourage national institutions to address economic, social and cultural rights as well as the rights of vulnerable groups in their activities. These rights were the topic of discussion at the fifth International Workshop of National Human Rights Institutions held in Rabat in April 2000. The declaration adopted at the workshop highlighted that the fight against poverty and the effective enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by all persons constitute priorities for action by national institutions.

77. There is increasing recognition that globalization has had a tremendous impact — and not always a positive one — on the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. National institutions from developed and developing countries and in countries with economies in transition face huge challenges as complaints, which are no longer limited to civil and political rights, increase. For example, the Human Rights Commission of India receives more complaints of a social, economic and cultural nature than relating to traditional civil and political rights, as does the Ombudsman of Ukraine. Characteristically, housing, welfare assistance and social security are among the issues typically addressed in complaints received by the national institutions of transitional democracies. While it would be unrealistic to expect that national institutions alone could solve the complex human rights problems emerging as a result of the combined forces of political and economic transition, they can provide an important channel for human rights concerns emanating from civil society.

78. Noting the re-emergence and extension of various forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, national institutions are already working to prepare for the upcoming World Conference. Many national institutions have race relations or similar commissioners who will be well

placed to provide added expertise. Similarly, because national institutions are accessible, they will be able to carry direct messages from those with concerns to the Conference. National institutions will have the right to participate as observers in the World Conference and will be invited to take an active part in the search for practical solutions during the various preparatory activities. Support for the involvement of national institutions in race-related issues is evidenced in a working paper prepared for the Working Group on Minorities of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which calls for national institutions to look at prevention strategies, education, the media, means of legal protection and international mechanisms and cooperation as they relate to the prohibition of discrimination and the protection of minorities.

79. National institutions play an equally important role in the fight against the abuse of the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities by assisting political and legislative bodies in the development of appropriate law and practices. The role of national institutions in the promotion and protection of the rights of women was discussed at a regional workshop on the role of national human rights institutions in advancing the international human rights of women held in Suva in May 2000. The workshop urged national institutions to pay greater attention to the economic, social and cultural rights of women, including the rights to shelter, food, water, primary education and primary health care, as fundamental rights, as well as to their sexual and reproductive rights. The contribution national institutions could make in this area was seen to include the gathering and examination of gender-disaggregated statistics and the recommending to Governments of suitable programmes that are realistic, cost-effective and achievable within a set time-frame.

80. Children's rights were the subject of discussion at a seminar on the role of national human rights institutions in the protection and promotion of the human rights of children held in Manila in September 1999. The seminar compared the best practices of national institutions, which included national inquiries, collaboration, strategic lobbying, pilot and local projects, public awareness and education campaigns, research, public interest litigation and acknowledgement of children's rights activists. It also made recommendations, including for the recognition of children as holders of rights and for respect for the views of children, which should guide the work of national institutions in this field. Similarly, it recommended that children should be widely and directly consulted in order to establish the child's perspective on issues affecting them.

Notes

[1] The Preparatory Committee, in adopting this decision (PC.1/13), put the word "compensatory" in square brackets and a number of statements in that regard were included in the report of the Committee (A/CONF.189/PC.1/21) at the request of representatives of either regional groups or States.

[2] As of this writing the text of the general comment on the right to health had not yet been published.

[3] As of this writing the text of the general comment had not been published. An unedited version is available in the treaty bodies database on the Internet at www.unhchr.ch.

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Item 13 (h) of the provisional agenda**
Economic and environmental questions: functioning of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, including its role in coordinating science and technology for development

Proposals for strengthening the coordination of the mechanisms on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development with the objective of promoting complementarity of activities within the United Nations system

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 54/201, entitled "Science and technology for development", the General Assembly endorsed the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999 on the basis of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourth session; recognized the role of the Commission in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system in the area of science and technology for development; emphasized the importance of the activities that are to be pursued within the framework of the Commission, including a broad spectrum of new global challenges in science and technology; and encouraged support for those undertakings.

2. The Secretary-General was requested to submit to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, without prejudice to the periodicity of this item, proposals for strengthening the coordination of mechanisms on the Commission within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in order to ensure coordination of the various efforts and activities in the area of new and innovative technologies, in particular information and communication technologies, and their applications, such as electronic commerce, with the objective of promoting complementarity of activities within the United Nations system. The present report has been prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat in response to that request.

3. The present report summarizes previous discussions by the Commission on the issue of coordination. It also reviews initiatives taken by various bodies in the United Nations system in order to establish electronic networks as a means to achieve coordination in the area of science and technology policy. The report concludes with a proposal to set up a knowledge and technology for development network, and points out the need for adequate resources to make it work effectively.

II. Coordination of work in the area of science and technology and role of the Commission

4. Since its establishment in 1992, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development has paid particular and continuous attention to the issue of coordination. The issue of coordination and cooperation in science and technology within the United Nations system was addressed for the first time by the Commission at its first session, in April 1993. After its deliberations, the Commission expressed the view that the objective of system-wide coordination in science and technology should be to create synergies. The subject of coordination was raised again by the Commission at its subsequent sessions as well as by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive sessions. In reviewing the science and technology-related activities reported by the agencies of the United Nations system, the Commission noted that the possibilities for overlapping mandates and programmes could not be excluded. In that respect, the Commission considered that the purpose of coordination should be to promote the complementarity of the various activities while avoiding duplication as much as possible.

5. At its fourth session, in May 1999, the Commission stressed that the role of coordinator within the United Nations system has always been and will continue to be a complicated task. As the coordinator of science and technology activities within the United Nations system, the Commission submits its recommendations to the Economic and Social Council, of which it is a functional body. The Council in turn reviews and transmits these to the General Assembly and to other United Nations organizations and agencies dealing with science and technology issues. As an indispensable component of development, science and technology is rapidly becoming a prominent feature in all aspects of development activities. The Commission should seek more inter-agency interaction not only to fulfil its mandate as coordinator of science and technology activities more effectively but also to provide leadership and direction in this area. The effectiveness of the Commission has been enhanced recently, with continuous communication between its secretariat, its Bureau and Commission experts during the inter-sessional period. The Commission's work on gender, information and communication technology

and biotechnology has been coordinated by working groups and panels on specific issues related to the main substantive themes selected by the Commission. Greater efforts should be undertaken to ensure that the results of these working groups and panels are fully taken into account by the sessions of the Commission.

6. In order to enhance the Commission's role as science and technology coordinator, steps should be taken to encourage the participation of United Nations organizations in its various panels. In addition, further sessional reports on substantive agenda items could include an entry on related or similar activities within the United Nations system. The Commission can play its role as a coordinator by assisting countries in formulating research and development policies, for instance.

7. In considering its role and activities regarding coordination at its fourth session, the Commission felt that it could best enhance its role as coordinator by demonstrating leadership in the area of science and technology for development. Therefore, the themes chosen for its inter-sessional periods should be useful and timely. To that end, on the recommendation of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1999/61, (a) urged the secretariat of the Commission to continue its efforts, in collaboration with other United Nations bodies, including regional commissions and the Open-ended Working Group on Informatics, to establish an electronic network linking information on their activities in science and technology for development; (b) requested the secretariat to continue to issue the regular newsletter updating activities in the United Nations system pertaining to science and technology for development, including information on plans for and the results of the inter-sessional activities of the Commission itself; (c) called on the secretariat and Bureau of the Commission to identify and take advantage of opportunities to interact closely with bodies of the United Nations system in order to promote greater information exchange and coordination of activities in science and technology for development; such interactions should include participation by the secretariat in the relevant coordination meetings of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities); (d) recommended that every other year a panel meeting be held in Geneva, following which the Bureau should meet the Geneva-based delegations of member States and observers for one day to discuss with delegations the status of the inter-sessional activities of the Commission and its efforts to coordinate activities of the United Nations system pertaining to science and technology for development; and (e) agreed to keep an item on the agenda of the Commission entitled "The functioning of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, including its role in coordinating science and technology for development", and requested its secretariat to prepare a succinct analytical report on relevant activities within the United Nations system, including the outcome of the World Conference on Science and Technology, for consideration under this item.

8. With respect to paragraph 7 (d) above, the meeting of the Bureau of the Commission and the UNCTAD secretariat with the representatives of the Geneva-based delegations of member States and observers is scheduled to take place in Geneva during the Commission's second panel meeting on biotechnology, from 3 to 5 July 2000.

III. Building an electronic network and information exchange system

9. The UNCTAD secretariat has taken steps to establish electronic linkages as part of its own dissemination activities. Two Internet discussion groups on science and technology were established in 1999. The first, at *CSTD@topica.com*, is open to members of the Commission and the UNCTAD secretariat in order to exchange information on the ongoing inter-sessional work. The second, at *STD@topica.com*, is a discussion list open to all people interested in science and technology for development. Most members of the Commission participate in the first list, while many more people and some Commission members subscribe to the second list.

10. UNCTAD has also been involved in other attempts to establish electronic networks in the field of science and technology for development. One such initiative was taken in 1997 by the members of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (EC-ESA), namely, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social

Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), UNCTAD, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, the United Nations Office at Vienna, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) and the United Nations University. The aim of these networks was to establish a centralized information exchange system on various themes, including technology.

11. As a follow-up to the EC-ESA initiative, EC-ESA members were advised to designate their own focal points for implementing the information exchange system. A coding scheme was then jointly developed to classify all technology-related activities. EC-ESA decided on 15 January 1998 in New York that the development of a system of information exchange should be centralized in a single agency remaining decentralized in its future update. Each member agency would maintain its own inputs in the database and the central web site connected to the database. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs was chosen to be the lead agency and its evolving Integrated Meeting and Documentation Information System (IMDIS) database was chosen as the starting point. It was suggested that technology-related activities to be included in the database should be the following activities funded through the regular budget: reports, meetings, workshops and technical cooperation projects. It was afterwards recommended that IMDIS should be expanded to include more data on science and technology than it was initially designed to contain. For instance, projects financed through extrabudgetary resources should be included.

12. The other initiative for setting up an electronic network came from the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). At its most recent session on 25 April 2000, ACC issued a draft statement on information technology (IT) and development. It was then reaffirmed that information technology was a critical development tool for the United Nations system in advancing the development goals emanating in part from the global United Nations conferences of the 1990s. The executive heads committed themselves collectively to inject new impetus to collaborative action by the United Nations organizations and agencies in this critical area. They emphasized that the United Nations system should place the main focus on developing a knowledge-sharing and learning culture rather than information technology alone. They considered that it was knowledge and learning capacity rather than investment in physical capital alone that would increasingly determine development outcomes. United Nations agencies needed to become "agencies of learning", which would require a comprehensive and coordinated system-wide approach to building an effective knowledge acquisition and dissemination capacity. The executive heads proposed, *inter alia*, organizing a system-wide community of IT experts and users through innovative networking arrangements, as a system-wide resource facility and consultancy service for information on options, costs, good practices, and emerging developments, for use by organizations of the United Nations system for their IT needs and for operational activities for development.

13. One way to respond efficiently and in a forward-looking manner to the General Assembly request, to the various needs mentioned above and to the mandates of the tenth session of UNCTAD and the vision by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to make the institution a knowledge-based organization is to establish a knowledge and technology for development network both internally (via the Intranet) and externally through the setting up of and inter-linkage of relevant United Nations bodies system-wide. The aim of the network would be to improve:

(a) Information-sharing, by providing access to the latest and relevant information on science and technology for development as well as linkage to information on science and technology activities of relevant United Nations bodies, including the regional commissions;

(b) Knowledge-diffusion, by providing information and identifying best practices with respect to mechanisms, strategies and channels needed to promote technology transfer, diffusion and adaptation and capacity-building. News and reports containing information and case studies on science and technology would be posted in the form of on-line documents;

(c) Generation of ideas by getting feedback on how to enhance the capability of UNCTAD and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to address relevant issues in the field of science and technology for development.

14. In practice, that would mean that UNCTAD would progressively establish various databases, beginning with one on a specific area of science and technology, such as current policies on biotechnology and their transfer or diffusion (this would create synergies with the ongoing inter-sessional work of the Commission on the theme "National capacity-building on biotechnology"). As experience is gained in managing such a network, more themes would be covered while giving priority to the topics of interest to the Commission. Ultimately, the network would involve all topics on the agenda of the international community in the field of science and technology. Participants in the network would include members of the Commission, policy makers, international and regional organizations, researchers, non-governmental organizations and civil society. The proposal by the firm Yet2.com to cooperate with UNCTAD in technology information diffusion for technology transfer purposes is a timely opportunity to exploit. Yet2.com provides information on-line on thousands of technologies available for transfer worldwide.

IV. Need for new regular budget resources

15. For the above network to be well designed, to function efficiently and to have a visible impact on the coordination of science and technology activities within the United Nations system and on development in general, there is a need for additional resources to be allocated to the UNCTAD secretariat to create, design, implement and operate the above network and information exchange systems. Current staff do not have either the time or the necessary technical skills.

16. Finally, there is a need to attend important substantive meetings as well as have a coordination meeting. In fact, as has been stated above, the objective of coordination of the United Nations-wide work on science and technology necessitates regular meetings of the representatives of secretariats of various United Nations organizations, as well as a more active participation of such representatives in the work, particularly expert meetings of each organization on specific themes related to science and technology. One of the major impediments to strengthening inter-agency cooperation and coordination is the lack of sufficient resources at disposal of the United Nations organizations to send their representatives to such meetings. With that in mind, it would be important, for the sake of strengthening coordination mechanisms, for the respective organizations to earmark budgetary resources to that end. The General Assembly may wish to take a decision on these resource matters.

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Consolidated report on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46, in annex II, paragraph 32 of which the Council requested the Secretary-General to produce a consolidated report on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. The report identifies, for the Council's consideration, linkages in the work of the functional commissions on which the Council needs to consider taking action. It is intended to assist the Council in ensuring the harmonization and coordination of the work of its functional commissions, while providing policy guidance to them.

2. As was the case with earlier consolidated reports (E/1999/3 and E/1999/101), the present report is not meant in any way as a substitute for or a summary of the reports of the functional commissions. Rather, it should be read in conjunction with those reports as well as with the reports of the Secretary-General on ways to enhance the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (E/2000/57) and on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (E/2000/67).

3. The report is divided into six parts. Section II provides an overview of the work of the commissions in 2000, identifying the main focus of their work programmes and highlighting their relationship to priority topics and system-wide events. Section III provides an overview of a number of thematic linkages and complementarities among the activities of the functional commissions over a three-year period from 1998 to 2000. Section IV outlines the existing coordination and consultation mechanisms currently utilized by the functional commissions, and provides suggestions on how those mechanisms could be strengthened. Section V contains a summary of the outcome of the joint meetings held between the Bureau of the Council and the bureaux of its functional commissions in 2000. Section VI contains recommendations for further enhancing the coordination of the work of the functional commissions.

4. Eight of the nine functional commissions met in 2000.[1] The unedited reports of three of the functional commissions were available when the present report was prepared: the reports of the Commission on Population and Development (thirty-third session), the Commission for Social Development (thirty-eighth session), and the Statistical Commission (thirty-first session). For the remaining five commissions, information from in-session documentation as well as from resolutions and decisions adopted during the session was used as it became available.

[1] The Commission on Science and Technology for Development, which holds its sessions biennially, did not meet in 2000.

II. Overview of the work of the functional commissions in 2000

5. Most of the functional commissions have adopted multi-year programmes of work,[2] and these are described in table 1 in order to provide a picture of each commission's focus in 2000 and, where available, for future years.

6. As already indicated in earlier reports, an analysis of the work programmes of the functional commissions from 1998 to 2000 shows that these work programmes have, to a large extent, been developed in full awareness of the focus of the work of other commissions and bearing in mind forthcoming major events to which their work could contribute. An example, as illustrated in table 1, was the decision by the Commission on Population and Development to select priority themes so that the outcome of its discussion could be fed directly into the special sessions of the General Assembly ("Population, gender and development" in 2000 for the review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action in the same year and "Population, environment and development" in 2001 for the review of the implementation of Agenda 21 in 2002). Also relevant is the selection, by the Commission on the Status of Women, of the theme "Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular issues related to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance" for 2001, which would also serve as an input to the World Conference against Racism scheduled to take place in the same year, and for which the preparatory body is the Commission on Human Rights. It should also be noted that the multi-year work programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development for 1998-2002 no longer provides the consideration of such issues as population and poverty, which although addressed in Agenda 21, are more effectively pursued by the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission for Social Development in their respective follow-up to the review processes.

7. For the period 1996-2000, four of the five functional commissions directly responsible for follow-up to the major conferences (Commissions for Social Development and on Sustainable Development, Population and Development and the Status of Women) adopted and implemented multi-year thematic programmes of work. Further information in this regard is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (E/2000/67). While to a large extent, themes were selected taking into account the work of the other commissions, it is nevertheless important to continue to bear in mind the Council's recommendation that coordination and collaboration in preparing work programmes be increased at the planning and formulation stage so as to further increase the harmonization of the work programmes of the functional commissions (see Council resolution 1999/51, para. 8).

8. At its thirty-eighth session, in 2000, the Commission for Social Development focused on the priority theme "Contribution of the Commission to the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit". The agreed conclusions on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development adopted by the Commission by consensus identified progress

[2] The Commission on Human Rights determined that it would be difficult to adopt a multi-year programme of work due to the range, scope and political nature of its work, as well as unforeseen changes in emphasis and priorities relating to subject matters.

made and constraints encountered in achieving the Summit outcomes in five areas, including poverty eradication, full employment, social integration, support for Africa and the least developed countries and mobilization of resources. Specific references were made in some of the sections to human rights issues, the situation of women and gender mainstreaming. These agreed conclusions were incorporated as part of the final outcome of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. It is important to note that, in negotiating the draft agreed conclusions, the Commission gave particular attention to some of the cross-cutting issues addressed in the other functional commissions. In addition to the priority theme above, the Commission reviewed relevant United Nations plans and programmes relating to the situation of social groups, namely, people with disabilities and older persons. For 2001, the Commission has selected the priority theme "Enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability in a globalizing world". The Commission will select subsequent themes for its multi-year programme of work at its thirty-ninth session, in 2001.

9. At its thirty-first session, in 2000, the Statistical Commission continued to focus on the statistical implications of recent major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular the coordination of development indicators relevant to these major events, including capacity-building. It also reviewed progress and coordination of international statistical work in the economic, social and environment fields and made specific recommendations for action by the Secretariat. For the first time and in response to the Council's request, the Commission adopted a multi-year programme of work for the years 2000-2003 (see E/CN.3/2000/L.3/Add.1). It also considered a conference room paper showing linkages/relationships between the agenda items and the work of other functional commissions, as well as a conference room paper describing actions taken by the Commission in the follow-up to the agreed conclusions of the Council's high-level and coordination segments and relevant Council resolutions.

10. The Commission on Population and Development selected "Population, gender and development" as the theme for its thirty-third session, in 2000, and "Population, environment and development" as the theme for its thirty-fourth session, in 2001. By Commission decision 1999/1, its secretariat was requested to submit themes for its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions. At its thirty-third session, the Commission agreed to select "Reproductive rights and reproductive health" as its priority theme for 2002, and "Population, education and development" as its priority theme for 2003. It should be noted that the Commission has, from the start of the process of selecting special themes, attempted to coordinate their selection by taking into account those selected by the other functional commissions.

11. The forty-fourth session, in 2000, of the Commission on the Status of Women was followed by the third session of the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly on the five-year review of the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Commission, having implemented its multi-year programme of work for 1997-2000, adopted a provisional agenda for 2001 which will contain, *inter alia*, the priority themes "Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS" and "Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular issues related to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance". It is the intention of the commission to prepare a new multi-year programme in 2001 to cover the period 2002-2005, taking into account the outcome of the above-mentioned special session

of the General Assembly, which was entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" and was held in June 2000. In order to facilitate its adoption, the Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General containing proposals for such a work programme. The report will also provide an overview of the multi-year work programmes of the other functional commissions so as to ensure that the Commission on the Status of Women's new programme optimizes the thematic synergies between the functional commissions.

12. At its fifty-sixth session, in 2000, the Commission on Human Rights continued its work on the elaboration of new international human rights instruments. Of particular importance was the adoption, by acclamation, of Commission resolution 2000/59, entitled "Question of draft optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflict, as well as on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography", by which the Commission recommended the early adoption of the two new optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the Economic and Social Council as well as by the General Assembly in order to facilitate the opening for signature of the two texts at the above-mentioned special session of the General Assembly.

13. At its eighth session, in 2000, the Commission on Sustainable Development adopted a number of decisions, including on agriculture, integrated planning and management of land resources, economic growth, trade and investment, financial resources and mechanisms, and preparations for the 10-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In particular, the Commission urged Governments to improve market access, provide technical assistance and establish capacity-building initiatives in favour of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to help them to increase export opportunities, promote diversified export-oriented production and enhance their ability to trade, and to implement their commitments in existing multilateral agreements, including World Trade Organization agreements. The Commission also considered the issue of financial assistance for promoting sustainable agriculture and development, and welcomed the progress made by the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) and endorsed its conclusions and proposals for action as contained in its report to the Council.

14. At its ninth session, in 2000, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice focused mainly on follow-up to the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which was held immediately prior to the session. In addition, the Commission considered, *inter alia*, such issues as international cooperation in combating transnational crime, including the elaboration of an international convention against transnational organized crime and other possible international instruments. As highlighted in table 1, the Commission implemented a multi-year programme of work from 1998 to 2000. The Commission decided that the prominent theme for its tenth session, in 2001, would be "Progress made in global action against corruption". The Commission did not consider it advisable to adopt themes for subsequent sessions given the ongoing work on the drafting of the convention on organized crime and related protocols, as well as the follow-up to the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which calls for a flexible approach. The Commission accordingly agreed to decide at each future session the theme to be discussed at its subsequent sessions.

15. At its forty-third session, in 2000, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs dealt with a number of issues, including follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on drug control and international cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes. For the first time, it decided to convene a ministerial-level segment at its sessions in 2003 and 2008 in order to review the follow-up implementation of the action plans adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and provide political momentum to the initiative. So as to strengthen preparations for such a segment, the Commission decided to hold thematic debates at its forty-fourth session, in 2001, and at its forty-fifth session, in 2002, on the following two themes, respectively: "Building partnerships to address the world drug problem" and "Action plan on international cooperation on the eradication of illicit drug crops and on alternative development". These thematic debates, which would be guided by panels of experts, should serve to enhance the possibility of a focused discussion of the issues.

Table 1
Work programmes of the functional commissions, 1998-2002

	Multi-year work programme	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Commission for Social Development	1997-2000 Yearly: – Enabling environment – Social development goals in structural adjustment programmes – Resources – Framework for cooperation in social development	– Promoting social integration and participation of all, including vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and persons	– Social services for all – Initiation of the overall review of the World Summit for Social Development – Review of United Nations plans and programmes of action: issues pertaining to ageing and International Year of Older Persons	– Contribution of the Commission to the overall review and appraisal of the World Summit for Social Development	– Enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability in a globalizing world	
Commission on Population and Development	1996-1999 and 2000-2003	– Health and mortality (emphasis on health development linkages, gender, age)	– Population growth, structure and distribution, with special emphasis on sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including education – Quinquennial review and appraisal of ICPD	– Population, gender and development	– Population, environment and development	– Reproductive rights and reproductive health, with special reference to human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (For 2003: Population, education and development)
Commission on the Status of Women	1997-2000 and 2001	– Violence against women – Women and armed conflicts – Human rights of women – The girl child	– Women and health – Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women – Initiation of the comprehensive review and appraisal of the Fourth World Conference on	– Comprehensive review of the Fourth World Conference on Women – Emerging issues	– Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS – Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular issues related to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and	

	Multi-year work programme	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
			Women – Differential impact of population ageing on women and men (contribution to International Year of Older Persons)		related intolerance	
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	1998-2000 and 2001	– Organized transnational crime	– Crime prevention	– International cooperation in combating transnational crime – Conclusions and recommendations of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders	– Progress made in global action against corruption	
Commission on Narcotic Drugs	2001-2002 (Thematic debates)				– Building partnerships to address the world drug problem	– Action plan on international cooperation on the eradication of illicit drug crops and on alternative development
Commission on Sustainable Development	1998-2002 – Overriding issues: poverty, consumption and production patterns	*Sectoral*: – Strategic approaches to fresh water management – Review of outstanding chapters of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States *Cross-sectoral*: – Transfer of	– Comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States *Sectoral*: – Oceans and seas *Cross-sectoral*: – Consumption and production patterns	*Sectoral*: – Integrated planning and management of land resources *Cross-sectoral*: – Financial resources – trade and investment – Economic growth *Economic sector/major group*: – Agriculture	*Sectoral*: – Atmosphere, energy *Cross-sectoral*: – Information for decision-making and participation – International cooperation for an enabling environment *Economic sector/major group*:	– Comprehensive review of Agenda 21

	Multi-year work programme	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
		technology, capacity-building, education, science, awareness-building *Economic sector major group*: – Industry	*Economic sector/major group*: – Tourism	– Day of indigenous people	– Energy/transport	
Commission on Science and Technology for Development			– Science and technology partnerships and networking for national capacity-building (with particular emphasis on biotechnology and energy)		– National capacity-building in biotechnology, with particular attention to agriculture and the agro-industry, health and the environment	
Statistical Commission	2000-2002		– Demographic, social and migration statistics – Vital statistics system – Poverty statistics – Classifications of expenditures by purpose – Environment statistics – Development indicators – Statistical classifications – Practical guidelines for good practices in technical cooperation for statistics – IMF data dissemination standards and system	– Gender issues – Poverty statistics – Economic statistics – Tourism statistics – Environment statistics – Development indicators – Statistical classifications – Methodological development – IMF data dissemination standard and system – UNDP *Human Development Report*	– Gender issues – Economic statistics – Environment statistics – Development indicators – Statistical classifications – Methodological development – Information technology – Technical cooperation	– Gender issues – Poverty statistics – Economic statistics – Environment statistics – IMF data dissemination standard and system – Dissemination of statistics – Statistical organization

III. Selected themes dealt with by the functional commissions from 1998 to 2000

16. The present section describes the attention given by the functional commissions to selected themes during the period 1998 to 2000. A number of cross-cutting themes emanating from the major conferences of the 1990s were selected, including:

(a) Enabling environment for development;

(b) Migration;

(c) Poverty and hunger;

(d) Human rights and gender;

(e) Basic social services;

(f) Sustainable development;

(g) Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

The purpose of the present analysis is to provide an indication of the linkages between the outcomes as well as the emphasis given to them by the various functional commissions over a three-year period, and to highlight areas where cooperation among the commissions could be improved. Tables 2 to 8 provide information on the linkages between these outcomes.[3]

17. The outcome of the work of the Statistical Commission is not included in the present analysis because of its unique focus in dealing with statistical aspects of substantive areas. The Commission has dealt with statistical aspects of several of the above cross-cutting themes, namely, migration, poverty, gender and sustainable development. It should be noted that the Commission, particularly at its thirty-first session, in 2000, has made an important contribution regarding the statistical implications of recent major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular the coordination of development indicators. The Commission is further considering relevant issues in an effort to link its work more directly with the other functional commissions in order to ensure a more integrated approach to issues of concern to the Council.

[3] In tables 2-8, the information provided in brackets after the resolutions/decisions relates to issues dealt with therein and is not necessarily the title of the resolution/decision.

Table 2
Enabling environment

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission for Social Development	Res. 36/1 (general, structural adjustment, globalization, ODA/external finance, national policies and international cooperation)	Agreed conclusions on social services for all and Chairman's summary of the expert panel discussion on social services for all (globalization); agreed conclusions on social services for all, draft res. 37/3 and Chairman's summary of the expert panel on social services for all (resources for development); agreed conclusions on social services for all, draft res. 37/3 (structural adjustment)	Annex to draft res. E/CN.5/2000/L.7 (globalization, trade, national policies and international cooperation, resources for development, ODA/external finance, external debt)
Commission on the Status of Women		Agreed conclusions on critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform of Action (globalization, resources for development and trade)	
Commission on Population and Development		Draft dec. E/CN.9/1999/L.4 (globalization); proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (resources for development)	
Commission on Sustainable Development	Dec. 6/2 (general) Decs. 6/1 and 6/3 (national policies and international cooperation) Dec. 6/1 (ODA/external finance)	Dec. 7/2 and draft Chair's compilation A/S-22/2 (globalization); Draft Chair's compilation A/S-22/2 (resources for development)	Chairman's summary of the high-level segment (globalization, trade, ODA/external finance, resources for development); Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable agriculture (globalization and trade); Decision on agriculture (ODA/external finance and trade); Decision on economic growth, trade and investment (trade, resources for development, national policies and international cooperation); decision on financial resources and mechanisms (globalization, ODA/external finance, trade, resources for development and external debt)

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission on Human Rights	Res. 1998/33 and 1998/72 (general); res. 1998/24 and 1998/72 (globalization); res. 1998/24 and 1998/72 and draft dec. 29 (national policies and international cooperation); res. 1998/24, 1998/33 and 1998/72, and dec. 102 and draft dec. 36 (structural adjustment); res. 1998/23 and 1998/24 (ODA and external finance); res. 1998/24 and draft dec. 9 (external debt)	Res. 1999/59 and 1999/79 (globalization); res. 1999/22 and 1999/25 and dec. 1999/104 (structural adjustment); res. 1999/22 and 1999/24 (external debt)	Res. 2000/82 and dec. 2000/109 (structural adjustment and foreign debt); dec. 2000/102 (globalization)
Commission on Science and Technology for Development	(Did not meet)	Chairperson's summary of the general discussion (globalization)	(Did not meet)

A. Enabling environment

18. The World Summit for Social Development highlighted the importance of building an enabling environment for development through a broad range of actions. The report of the Secretary-General on a coordinated follow-up to major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields (E/1995/86) noted that this theme was common to various major conferences of the 1990s, including such sub-themes as, *inter alia*, a macroeconomic policy framework conducive to development, external debt and finance for development and international trade and commodities. Subsequently, other sub-themes, such as globalization and structural adjustment, were added to this broader category and are therefore also included here.

19. It should be recalled that the Council, at its substantive session in 1997, adopted agreed conclusions 1997/1 on fostering an enabling environment, as it felt that for a topic of such importance it was best for the Council to deal with the issue in a comprehensive manner rather than for its functional commissions to take it up in a piecemeal fashion. In view of the breadth of this issue, it is difficult for each commission to address adequately all of the sub-themes which make up the broader category. Consequently, most of the functional commissions are able to treat certain aspects of it only selectively.

20. Table 2 shows that, from 1998-2000, the enabling environment was addressed particularly by five functional commissions: the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development. While each of the Commissions addressed this broad theme as it relates to its own area of competence, some complementarity exists in the commissions' consideration of this theme during this period. For example, the Commission on Population and Development, in its capacity as the preparatory body for the five-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development, addressed the full breadth of the issue of an enabling environment in 1999, while other commissions, such as the Commission on Human Rights, the

Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development, addressed its sub-themes.

21. In 2000, the Commission for Social Development, in the context of its overall review and appraisal of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, assessed the overall situation with regard to the enabling environment for development. The main points of its assessment are echoed in the outcome of several other commissions which dealt with this issue, including, for example, the focus on the problems posed for developing countries by worsening terms of trade, declining inflows of concessional resources and the high debt burden.

22. Table 2 shows that the impact of globalization has been a concern in several commissions. However, there appears to be a need to move towards a more detailed analysis of the impact of globalization and of trade and finance in the specific area addressed by the functional commissions. The debate at the high-level segment of the Commission on Sustainable Development, for instance, stressed the need for further research on the links between trade liberalization and sustainable development. It should be noted that the Commission on Human Rights proposed the appointment of two Special Rapporteurs of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to undertake a study on the issue of globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (see Commission decision 2000/102).

23. The issue of resources for development was also given considerable attention by the functional commissions in 2000. The Commission on Sustainable Development conducted an in-depth examination of this issue, and its decision on financial resources and mechanisms was prepared through an ad hoc inter-sessional working group (see E/CN.17/2000/10) and a panel on finance and investment. The Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Population and Development examined the issue of resources towards the implementation of the conferences for which they have main monitoring responsibility. They also addressed official development assistance (ODA), external indebtedness, private investment and international financial stability. There was generally considerable consistency in the recommendations of the functional commissions on these issues, and a continuing strong emphasis on the need to reverse ODA decline and provide deeper, broader and faster debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries, while also addressing the debt problems of middle income countries. The Council could draw attention to this work and generally to the work of its commissions on these issues, as the Assembly is preparing a high-level event on financing for development in 2001.

Table 3
Migration

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission for Social Development			Draft res. E/CN.5/2000/L.7 (annex) (human rights of migrants)
Commission on the Status of Women	Draft res. IV (human rights of migrant workers); res. 42/3 (violence against migrant workers)	Report of the Working Group on Communications (E/CN.6/1999/CRP.5) (civil and economic rights of migrant women workers)	
Commission on Population and Development	Draft dec. on agenda item 4 (b) (international migration)	Draft resolution on population growth, structure and distribution (general); discussion on follow-up actions to the recommendations of ICPD (international migration)	Draft res. E/CN.9/2000/L.4 (gender dimensions of migration); *Concise Report on World Population Monitoring, 2000* (gender dimensions of migration)
Commission on Human Rights	Res. 1998/15 and 1998/16, draft decs. 4 and 38, decs. 1998/105 and 1998/106 (human rights of migrant workers); res. 1998/17 and 1998/52 (violence against women migrant workers)	Draft dec. 14, res. 1999/44 and 1999/45 (human rights of migrants); res. 1999/40 (illegal trafficking of migrant women and girls); res. 1999/42 (violence against migrant women)	Res. 2000/54 (violence against women migrants); res. 2000/48 and 2000/49 (human rights of migrants)
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	Draft res. II (for adoption by the General Assembly through the Council, on illegal trafficking in and transportation of migrants); draft dec. IV (illegal trafficking in and transportation of migrants)	Draft res. II (illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants)	

B. Migration

24. As highlighted in table 3, the issue of migration has been dealt with by a number of functional commissions. The Commission on Population and Development, which considered the theme of international migration and development in 1997, has focused on the measurement and understanding of changes in population distribution and the levels, trends, policies, determinants and consequences of international migration. The Commission for Social Development has looked at issues relating to the welfare of migrant workers, and the Commission on the Status of Women has dealt with the situation of refugee and migrant women and gender aspects of related policies. The Commission on Human Rights has on its agenda measures to improve the situation and ensure the dignity and human rights of migrants. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice deals with the issue within the context of illegal trafficking in and transportation of migrants, in particular where organized criminal groups are involved.

25. During their sessions in the year 2000, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on Human Rights considered issues relating to migration. The Commission for Social Development, in its agreed conclusions, addressed issues relating to the protection of immigrants and migrant workers and the problems of violation of the human rights of migrants. The Commission on Population and Development looked at the issues of internal migration and international migration within the context of its central theme for 2000, "Population, gender and development". In particular, it looked closely at the gender dimensions of migration. The Commission on Human Rights focused mainly on the human rights of migrants, the protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families, and the problem of violence against migrant workers.

26. Earlier consolidated reports have noted the apparent overlap in the work undertaken by some of the commissions in their consideration of this issue. An example can be seen in the consideration in 2000 by both the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Human Rights of the issue of the human rights of migrants.

Table 4
Poverty and hunger

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission for Social Development	Res. 36/1 (poverty); res. 36/1 (hunger and food)	Agreed conclusions on social services for all and Chairman's summary of the expert panel discussion on social services for all and res. 37/3 (poverty)	Annex to draft res. E/CN.5/2000/L.7 (poverty)
Commission on the Status of Women	Res. 42/1 (hunger and food)	Agreed conclusions of the Commission on institutional mechanisms for advancement of women (poverty)	
Commission on Population and Development	Draft dec. on agenda item 3 (hunger and food)	*Concise Report on World Population Monitoring, 1999* and Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD (poverty); *Concise Report on World Population Monitoring, 1999* (hunger and food)	

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission on Sustainable Development	Dec. 6/3 (poverty); dec. 6/1 (hunger and food)	Decs. 7/2 and 7/3 (poverty); dec. 7/1 (hunger and food)	Chairman's summary of the high-level segment (hunger and food); Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue (hunger and food); dec. on agriculture (poverty and hunger and food); dec. on integrated planning and management of land resources (poverty and hunger and food)
Commission on Human Rights	Res. 1998/24, 1998/25, 1998/33, 1998/72 and draft dec. 10 (poverty); res. 1998/23 and 1998/24 and draft dec. 8 (hunger and food)	Res. 1999/25 and 1999/26 (poverty); res. 1999/24 (hunger and food)	Special debate on the theme "Poverty and the enjoyment of human rights" (poverty); res. 2000/9 and 2000/12 (poverty); res. 2000/10 (hunger and food)
Commission on Science and Technology for Development	(Did not meet)	E/CN.16/1999/3 (hunger and food)	(Did not meet)
Commission on Narcotic Drugs		E/CN.7/1999/3 (poverty)	
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice		E/CN.15/1999/3 (poverty)	

C. Poverty and hunger

27. Table 4 shows that this cross-cutting priority theme was considered by most of the functional commissions over this three-year span.

28. Within the broader category of poverty eradication, the Council, in its agreed conclusions 1996/1, stated that it would, *inter alia*, carry out a review of the theme of poverty eradication at a date to be determined, as a contribution to the review of the World Summit for Social Development. This issue became the main theme of the 1999 session of the Council. It was also the overall theme of the high-level segment of the Council in 1999, culminating with the adoption of a ministerial communiqué on the topic "The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women" at the Council's high-level segment. The issue was also addressed in the operational activities segment as well as in the coordination segment within the context of discussions on Africa.

29. In 2000, the Commission for Social Development, in its agreed conclusions on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, provided an assessment of the progress achieved in the area of poverty eradication since the Summit.

30. At its eighth session, in 2000, the Commission on Sustainable Development dealt with the issue of food security within the context of the implementation of sustainable agriculture, and this is reflected in both the Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue and the Chairman's summary of the high-level segment

of the session. The Commission also adopted a decision on agriculture in which the issue of food security and the link between hunger and poverty were looked at. In that decision, the Commission also urged all Governments and the international community to implement the relevant commitments they have entered into for the eradication of poverty. Also, a decision on integrated planning and management of land resources covered aspects of the issues of poverty and food security, particularly within the context of prevention and mitigation of land degradation.

31. The Commission on Human Rights, at its fifty-sixth session, in 2000, held a special dialogue on poverty and the enjoyment of human rights. The dialogue reviewed the effects of poverty on the enjoyment of human rights, in particular the impact of poverty on the full range of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, and its outcome contributed to finding rights-based solutions to global poverty. Resolutions on the right to food and human rights and extreme poverty further show the emphasis accorded to these issues.

32. From reviewing the outcomes of the functional commissions, it can be concluded that this broad theme is being addressed by the relevant commissions from the point of view of their own areas of competence. In the past three years, efforts have been made to enhance complementarity in the work of the commissions in this area. For example, in 1999, the Commission for Social Development invited the other functional commissions to inform it of their work in this area and to provide inputs on aspects of poverty eradication addressed by them. The Commission on Human Rights recommended that the independent expert on extreme poverty report to it on her activities at its fifty-sixth session, in 2000, and make her report available to the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, as appropriate, during their sessions in the same year.

Table 5
Human rights and gender

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission for Social Development	Res. 36/1 (general)	Agreed conclusions on social services for all, dec. 37/102, annex to res. 37/3 and Chairman's summary of the expert panel discussion on social services for all (general)	Annex to draft res. E/CN.5/2000/L.7 (general)
Commission on the Status of Women	Draft res. IV and res. 42/5 (general); draft res. IV, res. 42/2 and 42/3 (violence against women); draft res. IV (traffic in women and girls); draft res. IV (the girl child)	All outcomes	Draft res. E/CN.6/2000/L.2 (violence against women); draft res. E/CN.6/2000/L.4 (general and violence against women); draft res. E/CN.6/2000/L.5 and L.6 (violence against women)

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission on Population and Development	Res. 1998/1 (general)	Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of ICPD (violence against women); Special themes of the Commission on Population and Development in the years 2000-2004 and proposals for key actions on the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (human rights of women and gender mainstreaming)	E/CN.9/2000/L.4 on special theme "Population, gender and development" (general); *Concise Report on World Population Monitoring, 2000* (general)
Commission on Sustainable Development		Dec. 7/3 (general); dec. 7/3 (violence against women); dec. 7/3 (traffic in women and girls)	Chairman's summary of the high-level segment; Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue; decision on agriculture
Commission on Human Rights	Res. 1998/51 and 1998/56 (general); res. 1998/17, 1998/52, 1998/73 and 1998/76 (violence against women); res. 1998/30 and 1998/76 (traffic in women and girls); res. 1998/76 (the girl child)	Res. 1999/24, 1999/25, 1999/26, 1999/46, 1999/47 and 1999/78 (general); res. 1999/42 (violence against women); res. 1999/40 (traffic in women and girls); res. 1999/80 (the girl child)	Res. 2000/5, 2000/9, 2000/13, 2000/44, 2000/46, 2000/71 and 2000/85 (general); res. 2000/44 (traffic in women and girls); res. 2000/45 (violence against women); res. 2000/18 (violation of the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan)
Commission on Science and Technology for Development	(Did not meet)	Dec. II, Chairman's summary of action arising from the third session and "A common vision" (text included in report of Commission) (general)	(Did not meet)
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	Res. 7/1 (general); draft res. IV and draft dec. I (violence against women); draft res. II, draft res. IV and draft res. V (traffic in women and girls)	Preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (general); draft res. I (violence against women); draft res. I (human rights of women and gender mainstreaming); draft res. II (traffic in women and children)	

D. Human rights and gender

33. While the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms fall clearly within the purview of the Commission on Human Rights, various aspects of this theme are addressed by the other functional commissions. For example, the question of reproductive rights is considered by the Commission on Population and Development, access to justice and the administration of justice by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the human rights of disabled persons and vulnerable groups by the Commission for Social Development. By far the largest cross-cutting human rights issue dealt with by the functional commissions is that of the human rights of women, and that issue will therefore be the cross-cutting theme examined here.

34. Promoting gender equality and the human rights of women are issues which have figured prominently in many of the international conferences and summits of the 1990s, and as mentioned above, are issues which have also been dealt with prominently in most of the functional commissions. This conforms largely to the Council's requests, most recently in its agreed conclusions 1997/2, that the commissions mainstream a gender perspective into their work.

35. As table 5 shows, the two commissions which deal in greatest depth with this issue are the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights. In the course of the last three years, these two commissions have developed an elaborate coordinating mechanism in an attempt to enhance complementarity of their work. For example, since 1998 the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women has annually participated in the work of the Commission on Human Rights and addressed that Commission. The results of the Commission on the Status of Women of particular relevance to the work of the Commission on Human Rights, such as its adopted agreed conclusions, are transmitted to the Chairperson of the latter Commission for its attention. In addition, since 1996, a joint work plan has been prepared between the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and submitted to both Commissions (see E/CN.6/2000/8-E/CN.4/2000/118).

36. In 2000, the Commission on Human Rights continued to pay attention to the issue of human rights and gender as seen in the many resolutions and decisions adopted at its fifty-sixth session (see table 5). The resolutions and decisions adopted on this issue include those on the elimination of violence against women, the need to suppress traffic in women and girls, issues relating to the violation of the human rights of women and girls, the elimination of violence against women migrant workers, the need to ensure that women have equal ownership of, access to and control over land and equal rights to own property and adequate housing, and the need to integrate human rights of women throughout the United Nations system. In considering issues on the right to development, right to food, human rights of persons with disabilities, on the problem of internally displaced persons and those involved in mass exoduses, the Commission on Human Rights made references to and/or touched on the importance of these issues as they affect women. Other issues, such as the situation of human rights in areas of concern, such as Afghanistan, and on the impact of globalization on the full enjoyment of all human rights, were also considered by the Commission within the context of their implications for women.

37. The issues of equal access to land and legal security of land tenure for all people, trade and investment for development, sustainable agriculture and economic growth and food security were considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session, in 2000. The promotion of the role of women as active participants in these areas was also given due consideration. On the other hand, the agreed conclusions of the Commission for Social Development point out, *inter alia*, the increasing feminization of poverty, the uneven access for girls to education, the sharp increase in poverty, especially among women, the need to promote social policies which enhance the inclusion and non-marginalization of women, and access by women to equitable distribution of opportunities, resources and incomes.

38. While some duplication exists in the work carried out in this area by the Commission on the Status of Women and other commissions, effective collaborative mechanisms, examples of which are mentioned above, have served to lessen such overlap and duplication over the past three years.

Table 6
Basic social services

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission for Social Development	Res. 36/1 (general); res. 36/1 (education)	Agreed conclusions on social services for all (general); annex to res. 37/3 (education and health)	Annex to draft res. E/CN.5/2000/L.7 (general, education and health)
Commission on the Status of Women	Res. 42/4 (general); res. 42/4 (education); draft res. IV (health)	Agreed conclusions on institutional mechanisms (general); agreed conclusions on women and health and draft res. IV and res. 43/2 and 43/3 (health)	Draft res. E/CN.6/2000/L.4 and L.6 (health and education)
Commission on Population and Development	Res. 1998/1 and draft res. I (health)	*Concise Report on World Population Monitoring, 1999* (education and health); draft res. on population growth, structure and distribution (education)	*Concise Report on World Population Monitoring, 2000* (education and health)
Commission on Sustainable Development	Dec. 6/3 (education)	Dec. 7/4 (education)	Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable development (education); dec. on agriculture (health); dec. on integrated planning and management of land resources (health)
Commission on Human Rights	Res. 1998/72 (general); res. 1998/33, 1998/72 and draft dec. 13 (education)	Res. 1999/79 (general); res. 1999/49 and 1999/80 (health)	Res. 2000/5 (general)
Commission on Science and Technology for Development	(Did not meet)	"A common vision" (text included in report of Commission) (education)	(Did not meet)

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice		Draft res. 3 on effective crime prevention (general)	
Commission on Narcotic Drugs			Draft res. II (health/ education); res. 43/4 (education)

E. Basic social services

39. Social services are an integral part of and positively contribute to social and economic development. Investment in social services contributes to poverty eradication, peace, equity and equality, social progress and cohesion, economic productivity, productive employment and full participation of all people in society. In making "Social services for all" its priority theme in 1999, the Commission for Social Development dealt in great depth with the issues relating to this theme. Table 6 shows that in 2000, attention was accorded to this topic by most of the functional commissions.

40. In 2000, the five-year reviews of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the World Summit for Social Development provided the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission for Social Development the opportunity to review, in a comprehensive manner, the issues of health, education and other basic social services, building on their earlier work in this area. It should be noted that there was considerable consistency in the approach of these two bodies, and both reviewed the targets agreed in the context of the world conferences of the 1990s for basic social services.

41. Complementarity in the work of the commissions in the area of basic social services has increased over the past few years. For example, the Commission for Social Development has recently been taking into account work undertaken by the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on the Status of Women regarding such issues as health and education, poverty and employment. The Commission on Human Rights has been taking into account work done on education by the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Population and Development. In addition and as mentioned in paragraph 55 below, the secretariats of the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission for Social Development collaborated on the preparation of the publication *Charting the Progress of Populations*.[4]

42. More particularly, on the issue of health, the functional commissions have identified a number of specific policy issues in the course of their work. The Commission on the Status of Women, in particular, highlighted areas requiring attention, such as women and infectious diseases, mental health and occupational and environmental health, and suggested the importance of integrating a gender analysis in the health sector (see 1999 agreed conclusions of the Commission on women and health). The Commission on Population and Development, which

[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.XIII.6.

considered the theme of health and mortality in 1998, also regularly discusses health issues in the context of its work on population monitoring, albeit from a somewhat different perspective. Recently, for example, in considering issues relating to health and mortality in both sexes, it also looked at the causes of female disadvantage in survival in early age and attention was drawn to the complex determinants of excess female mortality. The Commission for Social Development also tackles a broad range of issues related to health policies, including financing issues and access for vulnerable groups. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs has addressed specific issues in this area, such as the prevention of drug abuse and the use of controlled substances for medical purposes. The Council could help bring these various perspectives together, thereby ensuring that they contribute to the work undertaken in the United Nations system in this area, by holding a debate on these issues at one of its segments.

Table 7
Sustainable development

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission on Population and Development		Dec. 1999/1; *Concise Report on World Population Monitoring*; proposals for key actions on the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action	
Commission on Sustainable Development	Dec. 6/4	Dec. 7/1, 7/2 and 7/3	Chairman's summary of the high-level segment; Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable development; dec. on agriculture; dec. on integrated planning and management of land resources
Commission on Human Rights	Res. 1998/12 Draft dec. 2	Res. 1999/23, 1999/24 and 1999/25	Res. 2000/9, 2000/10 and 2000/72

F. Sustainable development

43. Cooperation among the functional commissions in this area has been generally satisfactory. For example, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Commission on Population and Development have cooperated in the area of population and the environment. Similarly, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Statistical Commission cooperate closely in the area of sustainable development indicators.

44. The Commission on Sustainable Development continues to focus its attention on key cross-cutting and sectoral issues that demonstrate the linkages between economic, social and environmental themes. It has also become a major forum for considering civil society views on the issues being considered in its multi-year

thematic programme of work. It has continued the practice started in 1998 of convening multi-stakeholder dialogues as part of its regular sessions and as a prelude to the high-level segment. The Commission brought together stakeholders, including representatives of government, industry, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and indigenous people, to discuss sustainable tourism at its seventh session, and land and agriculture at its eighth session, in 1999 and 2000, respectively.

45. Table 7 illustrates the inter-linkages in the work of the commissions over the past three years. It should be borne in mind that the theme "Population, environment and development" is slated for consideration in 2001 by the Commission on Population and Development as part of its multi-year programme of work. In addition, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development has also scheduled for consideration as part of its multi-year programme of work for the year 2001 the theme "National capacity-building in biotechnology, with particular attention to agriculture and agro-industry, health and the environment".

46. Coordination and complementarity in the work of the commissions on this theme has increased over the years, with enhanced collaboration between the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Population and Development, the Statistical Commission, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women.

Table 8
HIV/AIDS

Commission	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Commission for Social Development		Annex to res. 37/3	Annex to draft res. E/CN.5/2000/L.7
Commission on the Status of Women		Agreed conclusions on women and health; res. 43/2	Draft res. E/CN.6/2000/L.6
Commission on Population and Development	Res. 1998/1	Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action; *Concise Report on World Population Monitoring, 1999*	Draft res. E/CN.9/2000/L.4; *Concise Report on World Population Monitoring, 2000*
Commission on Human Rights		Res. 1999/49 and 1999/80	Res. 2000/82
Commission on Narcotic Drugs		Draft resolution on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction	

G. HIV/AIDS

47. The issue of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) has been considered mainly by the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights. In examining the outcomes on this issue, it could be concluded that complementarity exists in the work of the commissions, as to a large extent, the issue is addressed within the context of the Commission's own area of competence.

48. In 2000, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted resolution 44/2, entitled "Women, the Girl Child and HIV/AIDS", in which, *inter alia*, it urged the Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS) and its co-sponsors to intensify their efforts in assisting Governments to determine the best policies and programmes to prevent women and young girls from becoming infected with the disease and to give urgent and priority attention to the situation of women and girls in Africa. Alarmed by the increasing rate of HIV infection among women and the impact of the disease on women and girls, the Commission selected "Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS" as its priority theme for 2001.

49. At its thirty-third session in 2000, the Commission on Population and Development, in considering its priority theme "Population, gender and development", considered the gender aspects of HIV/AIDS and their implications for the health of women. The Commission secretariat is in the process of incorporating the most recent estimates of HIV/AIDS prevalence into the preparation of its forthcoming publication *Revision of World Population Estimates and Projections in 2000*. The results of the *Revision* will provide an updated assessment of the demographic impact of the disease. The Commission also decided that its secretariat should give due attention to the impact of HIV/AIDS in the preparation of documentation for the period 2001-2003.

50. It should also be mentioned that the secretariat of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, is a full-fledged member and sponsor of UNAIDS, and is undertaking programmes to counter the spread of HIV/AIDS through intravenous drug use. In this manner, ongoing collaboration takes place between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNAIDS.

IV. Current modalities for coordination

51. Interaction among the functional commissions continues to take place primarily through mutual representation and participation in each other's meetings and through the exchange of documents. In addition to these relatively straightforward forms of coordination, the commissions have attempted, in response to the Council's guidance, to mutually reinforce each other's work through other forms of collaboration, examples of which are described below. A number of further examples are highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (E/2000/67).

52. Most of the cooperative mechanisms utilized by the functional commissions are bilateral in nature. For example, in an effort to enhance complementarity on the issue of capital punishment, the report of the Secretary-General on this issue is

prepared by the secretariat of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (the Centre for International Crime Prevention), and is considered by the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Council itself. Another example is the close collaboration between the Commission on Crime Prevention and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Following the establishment of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, including its Centre of International Crime Prevention and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the synergies between the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs have been further expanded. The servicing of both commissions by one common secretariat has proven to be cost-effective and mutually reinforcing.

53. It should be noted that five of the nine commissions are serviced by divisions within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Commission on the Status of Women, Commission for Social Development, Commission for Population and Development, Statistical Commission and Commission on Sustainable Development), which greatly facilitates increased communication among them throughout the year in relation to each other's substantive and procedural issues. Furthermore, their close proximity has not only facilitated attendance at meetings, at the Director level, to discuss issues of mutual concern for their respective commissions, but has also enabled their direct input into the work of the commissions.

54. In its consideration of the issue of persons with disabilities, the Commission for Social Development has collaborated closely with the Commission on Human Rights. At its thirty-fourth session, in 1998, the Commission on Human Rights discussed the issue of human rights of persons with disabilities and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Social Development was invited to address the session. Recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur were taken into account in resolution 1998/31 adopted by the Commission on Human Rights. At its thirty-eighth session, in 2000, the Commission for Social Development's Special Rapporteur on Disability presented his report on monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, 1997-2000. In monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules, the Special Rapporteur worked closely with various organs and organizations of the United Nations system, including the Commission on Human Rights.

55. The Commission on Population and Development, during its thirty-third session, in 2000, received presentations on interrelated activities undertaken by other commissions, including on the five-year reviews of the major conferences within their mandate. Those presentations were made by the Directors within the secretariats of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Statistical Commission. Other forms of collaboration include inputs to other commissions and conference secretariats by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in its capacity as substantive secretariat for the Commission on Population and Development. An example of this is the Division's preparation, at the request of the Commission for Social Development, of the publication *Charting the Progress of Populations*.[5] The information contained therein was utilized by the Commission for Social Development in its preparatory work for the special session

[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.XIII.6.

of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and further initiatives.

56. The Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights have developed an effective collaborative mechanism which has served to greatly enhance coordination between them (see sect. III above). In addition, the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women addressed the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights, in 2000, which presented an opportunity for an exchange of views as well as suggestions for further cooperation. The Commission on the Status of Women has also instituted other mechanisms. For example, cooperation between it and the Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice has been enhanced through close cooperation between the secretariats of both commissions, especially in the areas of trafficking in persons and violence against women.

57. It is important to note that some of the functional commissions have decided to include, in their agendas, a new item to consider follow-up actions to resolutions and decisions of the Council, including those relating to the strengthening of cooperation among the commissions. For example, the Commission on the Status of Women considered the new item "Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions" (item 5) at its forty-fourth session, in 2000. A report on the item (E/CN.6/2000/5) was prepared by the Commission secretariat, which outlined follow-up action undertaken for Council resolutions 1999/35, 1999/51 and 1999/55. Similarly, the Statistical Commission, at its thirty-first session, in 2000, considered the item "Follow-up to the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council high-level and coordination segments and to its resolutions" (item 12) and, as mentioned in section III above, had before it a conference room paper outlining relevant follow-up actions undertaken.

58. The Chairpersons of the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, in a meeting held in March 1999 on ways to enhance coordination and cooperation, recommended that similar meetings of the chairpersons of the functional commissions take place annually during the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council. The importance of such a meeting was reiterated once more during the joint meeting of the Bureau of the Council and the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development in March 2000. It was noted, however, that a solution needed to be found to the problem of a lack of financial resources for holding such a meeting.

59. While it is evident that the functional commissions are benefiting from cooperative mechanisms which have been instituted in the interest of increased collaboration, there remain ample opportunities for strengthening those mechanisms and enhancing the collaboration and cooperation which has been achieved so far. Section VI below contains a number of recommendations in that regard, and should be read in conjunction with the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (E/2000/67).

V. Joint meetings of the Bureau of the Council and the bureaux of its functional commissions in 2000

60. In response to relevant paragraphs of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B and Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46, joint meetings of the Bureau of the Council and the bureaux of the functional commissions were held beginning in 1999. By its resolution 1999/51, the Council welcomed the progress made in ensuring an increased interaction of the Council with its subsidiary bodies, including its functional commissions, through the holding of joint bureaux meetings.

61. The present section covers the discussions held during the joint meetings of the Bureau of the Council and the bureaux of its functional commissions in 2000. It describes the efforts of the Council to bring about improved coordination of activities and positive linkages with its functional commissions, as well as improved interaction among the functional commissions through the sharing of information.

62. At the time of writing of the present report, the Bureau of the Council had met with the bureaux of six functional commissions in 2000; a list of the joint meetings is contained in the annex. Due to the extremely short duration of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice's ninth session, in 2000, it was not possible for a joint meeting to take place. A joint meeting with the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women was postponed due to the heavy workload resulting from the preparations for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".

Main issues discussed

63. The scope of the meetings varied from focusing on the working methods employed by the commissions and the level of coordination and collaboration both among functional commissions and between the Council and its functional commissions to the coordination of the functional commissions' work in the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major conferences and summits. This last issue also involved the forthcoming reviews of conferences, including the five-year reviews of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development and the 10-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The meetings also touched on the level of attention paid to cross-cutting themes being addressed by the United Nations system. The relationship between functional commissions with other organizations and bodies and mechanisms of the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations were also covered, although to a lesser degree.

64. A spirit of partnership permeated these joint bureaux meetings and they were considered very useful. A high level of cooperation and coordination existed between the Council and its functional commissions, as well as a recognition that the effective follow-up to the Council's policy recommendations has resulted in a marked revitalization of the work of its commissions.

Working methods of the functional commissions

65. The joint meetings provided opportunity for the bureaux of the commissions to comment on the effectiveness of activities that have emanated from guidance provided by the Council. Thus, the holding of inter-sessional meetings has been

embraced by almost all functional commissions. A greater number of inter-sessional meetings of the Commission for Social Development has facilitated a higher level of dialogue in the several segments organized for the session of the Commission. Inter-sessional meetings organized by the Commission on Sustainable Development were conducive to successful end-products of drafting groups in specific areas of concern. The Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development organized inter-sessional meetings to consider, *inter alia*, issues related to the Commission's organization of work, its future sessions, such as the special themes and review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Bureau's own working methods.

66. Outcomes of expert workshops organized by functional commissions resulted in inputs to preparations for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world".

67. The establishment of multi-year programmes by almost all the commissions has enhanced coordination by the United Nations system in the consideration of issues of concern. This mechanism has facilitated long-term planning as well as the adjustment of programmes of work of the commissions as changing needs emerge (for detailed description of the current and future themes to be addressed by the commissions through their multi-year programmes of work, see sect. II above).

68. It was also noted that almost all commissions followed very closely the Council's recommendation on the practice of re-electing one member of the outgoing bureau to the incoming bureau in an effort to ensure continuity.

69. Frequently reiterated was the need for chairpersons of the functional commissions to meet with the Council as it was felt that that would contribute to closer interaction and better coordination between the two groups, as well as contribute to assisting the Council in better fulfilling its overall coordinating role. It should be mentioned in this regard that the Council will hold a panel discussion with the chairpersons of the preparatory committees for the five and 10-year reviews of a number of major United Nations conferences. In addition, meetings of the chairpersons of the commissions with representatives of the specialized agencies and the executive boards of the funds and programmes of the United Nations system was suggested as a means of improving cooperation at the national and technical levels, including in the coordination of the implementation and follow-up to conferences. In this regard, the use of technologies, such as videoconferencing, needed to be considered.

70. Several suggestions were also made for improving the working methods of the commissions. For example, it was stated that while the dialogue among participants in the various segments of the commissions had been active, more could be done to further enhance an interactive dialogue if statements to be made by representatives were distributed in advance. To this end, it was suggested that the use of available communications technology, such as electronic mail, needed to be considered.

Follow-up to conferences

71. One important outcome of the joint bureaux meetings was the recognition that during the year in review, there had been marked interest and actions by functional commissions in improving linkages among them, in particular with regard to the effective, integrated and coordinated follow-up to conferences and summits, as reviewed and highlighted above.

Collaboration between functional commissions and organizations of the United Nations system

72. It was evident that there existed an increase in the level of cooperation between the functional commissions and their secretariats with other bodies of the United Nations system. It was felt that participation of members of the commissions, including members of its bureaux, in seminars, round tables and workshops organized by other organizations of the United Nations system, such as the World Bank, provided valuable opportunities for dialogue. It was also reported that cooperation between functional commissions and regional commissions had increased, as evidenced in the active participation of regional commissions in the preparations for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", including regional follow-up conferences in the respective regions.

VI. Recommendations

73. The Council may wish to consider the following recommendations:

(a) The Council may wish to invite the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development to take into consideration the multi-year work programmes of the other functional commissions when they elaborate their new multi-year programmes of work during 2001 and 2002. The Secretariat could be requested to provide a background note on the programmes of work of the functional commissions and to report to the Council, in its forthcoming consolidated reports, on the outcome of this recommendation;

(b) The Council could invite its functional commissions to devote attention to the impact of globalization on development objectives in their respective areas of competence, and to carry out an in-depth analysis of the mechanisms through which globalization, trade liberalization and technological change affect social development, the advancement of women, sustainable development and other goals monitored by each commission, particularly in developing countries;

(c) The Council may wish to call on the relevant functional commissions to continue to share reports and studies prepared by Special Rapporteurs and independent experts on such issues as globalization and its effects on the enjoyment of human rights, the right to development, structural adjustment policy and economic, social and cultural rights, and the principles of individual and collective responsibilities of transnational corporations;

(d) In an effort to enhance complementarity in the consideration of the issue of migration, the Council may wish to invite the bureaux of the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission for Social Development and the Statistical Commission to hold a joint meeting of bureaux members on their work on issues relating to migration;

(e) Given the lead role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up on poverty eradication, the Council could invite the other functional commissions to keep the Commission for Social Development closely informed of their work in this area and request the Commission for Social Development to invite the other functional commissions to share with it their treatment of specific aspects of poverty eradication being addressed by them within their areas of competence;

(f) The Council may wish to invite its functional commissions, particularly the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Sustainable Development, to take into account the agreed conclusions reached by the Commission for Social Development on its 1999 priority theme "Social services for all" when considering issues relating to basic social services;

(g) In view of the linkages between crime, drug abuse and social development, the Council may wish to invite the Commission for Social Development, in its consideration of the issues relating to basic social services, to incorporate into its work programme the relevant parts of the outcomes of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

(h) Given the wide range of issues dealt with in Agenda 21, the Council may wish to invite the functional commissions to consider the desirability of providing inputs, in their respective areas of work, to the Commission on Sustainable Development on issues of relevance to their work which could contribute to the comprehensive review of Agenda 21 in 2002. In addition, the Council may wish to encourage the Commission on Sustainable Development to undertake the broadest possible consultation with other commissions, international organizations and major groups in its preparations for the review;

(i) The Council may wish to welcome the attention given by the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women to the issue of HIV/AIDS. Given the severe implications which the HIV/AIDS pandemic has for all issues relating to development, the Council may wish to invite its functional commissions to ensure the continued consideration of relevant aspects of the issue of HIV/AIDS in their work programmes, and to also take into account the recent deliberations of the Security Council on this issue. It could invite all its commissions to increase their collaboration and cooperation in this area and draw its attention to important policy issues that the Council would need to address;

(j) The Council may wish to invite the Commission on the Status of Women to further increase its cooperation with other Commissions, in particular the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, on issues of mutual concern. The Council may also wish to request the two Commissions to examine ways to further strengthen cooperation, particularly between their secretariats;

(k) The Council may wish to explore ways of facilitating annual meetings between its Bureau and the chairpersons of the functional commissions, preferably during the substantive session of the Council, in order to discuss modalities for enhanced collaboration and cooperation among the functional commissions, as well as to convey policy guidance from the Council in that regard;

(l) The Council may wish to encourage all of its functional commissions, in particular the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, to exchange views on the priority issues to be addressed in a revised plan of action and a long-term strategy on ageing, the results of which could be fed into preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, to be held in 2002.

Annex

Joint meetings between the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council and the bureaux of its functional commissions held in 2000

Functional commission	*Date of joint meeting*
Commission for Social Development	15 February 2000
Statistical Commission	2 March 2000
Commission on Narcotic Drugs (videoconference — New York/Vienna)	13 March 2000
Commission on Population and Development	30 March 2000
Commission on Sustainable Development	28 April 2000
Commission on Human Rights (videoconference — New York/Geneva)	16 May 2000